

PUNK, HARDCORE AND METAL - THE SCUM ALSO RISES

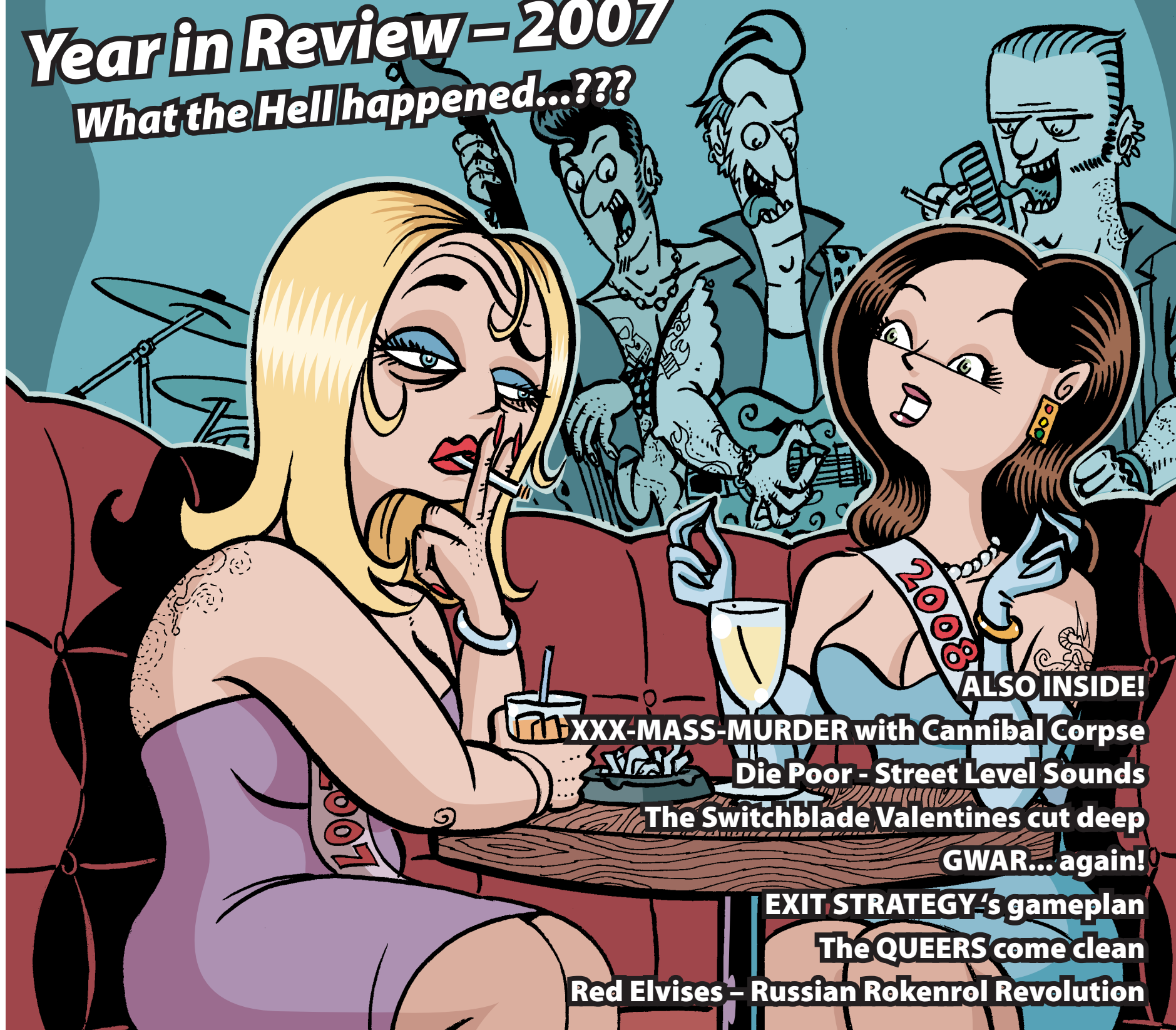
Vol. 4 - #1 Issue 19 - December 2007 / January 2008

Absolutely FREE

U ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND

Year in Review - 2007

What the Hell happened...???



ALSO INSIDE!

XXX-MASS-MURDER with Cannibal Corpse

Die Poor - Street Level Sounds

The Switchblade Valentines cut deep

GWAR... again!

EXIT STRATEGY's gameplan

The QUEERS come clean

Red Elvies - Russian Rokenrol Revolution

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NEXT ISSUE ... EXODUS, BROKEN BOTTLES, DEATH SENTENCE, OBITUARY, THE CROWD, ANATOLIAN WISDOM, THE GALLOWES.





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Die Poor

"Sounds From The Streets"

interview by bumsexjen

It seems that most times in life, nothing significant can ever be found when one is actually looking for it. Instead you have to practically trip over it and land on your fucking head before it even registers that there is something there. Many of us, in our pursuit of musical enlightenment, head to clubs & bars, following glossy trails of packing taped fliers towards the promising glimmer of the "next big thing". The futility of this exercise lies within that moment when we shuffle home dissatisfied with little more than a harsh distaste for modern music culture, and significantly lighter wallets. As you stumble on, disgruntled and inebriated, you hear a sound in the distance. A soulful, raspy, chaotic shit mix that draws you to some random dirty forgotten corner, like a moth to to an electric blue bug zapper. Only instead, you find yourself drawn to the most barbaric assault that your ears have ever received. Amidst the dirt and grime, and the mad energy of the night, you will find that your feet cannot help but move, you soul cannot help but be shook and your mind cannot help but be fucking BLOWN. All this for nothing more than your pocket change, and maybe a bite of your 2 for 1 slice. That's all Die Poor wants and that's all they fucking need. And titties, they "need to see some titties".

I found Die Poor on Halloween night @ Logan's pub. They were weird, and unique and blew me away. Ira and I made eye contact across the bar and we both new that these guys were the ones we wanted for Locals Only. It's beyond refreshing to find someone who honestly doesn't give a fuck and is there to do their own thing. Die Poor was just that. They were a different choice for the line-up that night, some people didn't think that they fit in, that they were the wrong choice, but who says that all shows have to have a uniformity of style. Die Poor display great talent, an amazing presence and made my night. They might not be your kind of thing, but they don't care about that. They come from the street and are authentic and FUCKING AWESOME! So let's learn a bit more about them...

Absolute Underground: Long before I saw you guys I was

hooked by the name. Who are Die Poor and what are their special powers?

Die Poor: Justin Flett vocals & guitar, Ian George drums, Sheryl-Anne gut bass, our special powers are that we can fuck shit up at the drop of a hat. We're kind of like Wizards.

AU: How would you describe the band's music?

D.P: Just grin'r!

AU: Where do you draw influence from for your unique sound?

D.P: Drugs, alcohol, sex, pain, criminal

activity, people we know and knew, ken okane, carolynn mark, awna, deona davies, dan wiesenburger, emile rhone, hucklyberry, luc, john carol, clay george, john logan, perv, pesto, adlib, voes, 1056, ewz, jay donaldson, bill stone, dave pritchard, jay flett, brawler, jet, demo, kin fo, dayglo abortions, no means no, tolen, lettuce, your mom, anarchy, the list goes on an on...

AU: How long have you been performing on the street. Both as a band and individually?

D.P: This band has been playing on the street from the start, about three years now, I've (Justin) been doin' it for ten years.

AU: What do you like about street performing?

D.P: The interaction with other people. You can do whatever the fuck you want, we get all fucked up an party on the street.

AU: What are some of the challenges of it?

D.P: The weather, if it's windy or raining or snowing or freezing fucking cold, but we still do it anyway.

AU: How do you feel about the City of Victoria's busking license program? Does it have any impact on you?

D.P: That license program is bullshit, my licenses are hanging between my legs and you can put'em in your mouth.

AU: Any run-ins with Johnny Law?

D.P: Ya, those fuckers have come up to us an told us to leave or they will take our gear, so we say ok and tell 'em we will leave , when they leave we just keep playing, stupid bitches.

AU: Funniest thing an American Tourist has ever said?

D.P: "Where is that bass sound coming from"

AU: How did you end up in the local bar scene?



D.P: Through our friend Heather. (Clove and Anchor Entertainment)

AU: Do you like it?

D.P: It's ok, sometime it's good sometimes it's bad, whatever.

AU: What are some of the challenges of playing to the bar crowd?

D.P: It seems people in Victoria have a hard time cuttin' loose at gigs, but there is no challenge we just throw down.

AU: Are there plans to tour? Have you played in other cities?

D.P: Ya we are thinking Seattle, or Europe. We traveled across Canada last year playing the streets. We hit Calgary, Montreal, Ottawa and the drunk tanks of Toronto.

AU: Do you have any plans to record?

D.P: No, we've recorded on tape decks that's it.

AU: Did Kermit hook up with Miss Piggy on Halloween Night?

D.P: Let say Kermit stunk like pork for a few days

AU: Website? Myspace?

D.P: No.

AU: Final Statement to the Police.

D.P: I would like to say, I love you and I miss you terribly. Hope to see you soon! P.S. How is your Mother doing? Hugs and kisses.



Monday Night Khaos with The Sugar Coated Killers and The Flaneurs

- Emily Kendy

"What better way to start the week off, than with a hangover?" asks Khaos, organizer behind Monday Night Khaos (and bassist for local punk-rock outfit, the Piss-Ups), at the Cobalt. On this particular Glam Rock Monday evening the rain is pouring down steadily while the doorman braves the perennial open door, waiting for the first stragglers of the night to arrive.

Inside the bar Red, of Red's Garage (also guitarist for Dirty and the Derelicts) fiddles with his sound equipment and Khaos paces in front of two garbage cans - which have been sectioned off with yellow tape because they are collecting drops of god-knows-what from the red pipe running along the length of the ceiling.

She is on the phone with Sevlí Atlantis Android, lead singer of Sugar Coated Killers who, for reasons unknown, lives in Kelowna. He's driving in on the highway and reassures her he'll make it to the Cobalt on time for his band's headlining set.

While waiting for the rest of his band mates to arrive, conversation about Glam Rock ensues with a group of glitter kids who are the opening band of the night, The Flaneurs.

A Flaneur, as the band informs me, is a French word for an idler of city streets. Flaneurs grew into existence in Paris in the 19th Century, with rise of urban culture and industrialization, etc., etc.

"It's a simultaneous paradox - or a love and disdain for city life," sums up Brendan Gray, bass. "They loved how the buildings interacted with the environment but also hated the impersonality of the city."

Were they flamers?

"You wear make-up and you're judged a homosexual and one has nothing to do with the other," says Carson Archer, drums, head bobbing under his startling Afro.

"A big part of what we do and why we use this aesthetic is because we're very much influenced by the first wave of punk," says Brendan. "Like the New York Dolls and the Dead Boys...that's when the big Commercial stage happened to rock and roll and these bands said, 'Fuck that, we're going to be ourselves and do something different.'"

"We just want to take it back to that, just being outrageous," says Grant Stebner, vox/guitar, making the first concise Flaneur insight of the night (At least I think it was Grant talking. I forgot to get names, which makes transcribing difficult).

Live, they're a bit of a mess - like watching a bunch of kindergarten kids run around unsupervised on arts and crafts day, but their live-off-the-floor grit and entertaining stage antics, such as tonguing their guitar strings, or some form of slightly creepy axemanship, made for a very colorful

live show. Literally, it's hard to avoid the glitter, hair, purple star shirt and hot pink boa. The recorded stuff shows promise.

Meanwhile, off-stage, the band of the night finally steps through the doors of the Cobalt like a futuristic drag-queen gang of outlaws. There are three of them, besides Sevlí: Poltergeist Candycave, guitar, Laserface Dreamscape, bass and Acronomican, drums.

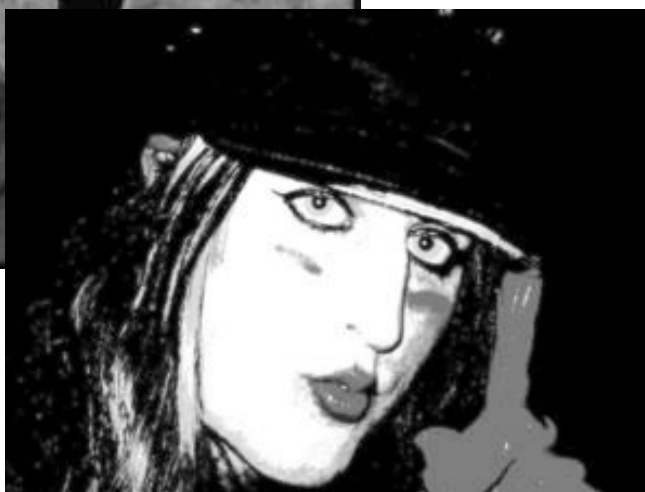
Their live show tonight includes synchronized moves, Sevlí's acrobatic floor-rolling this-is-the-last-show-of-our-lives exploitations, and songs ranging from "Eye Magic Robot" to "Children of the Whores." Afterwards, as people leave we sit along the long bench in the back, under all of Wendy

13's gothic Pollok-style paintings and talk about the birth of B.C.'s slap-in-the-face answer to conservatism.

"We're trying to be like Kiss," Says Sevlí, despite snickers from the other bandmates.

Sugar Coated Killers began in Kelowna (though everyone except the singer lives out here now) as a reincarnation from two former bands, Uncle Monster Space Circus and Halloween Fright Machine.

"We did a lot of special things together," says Sevlí, in his cop-style cap and long green- and-black wig. "I remember the first show that Laserface Dreamscape played."



"I was nervous," admits Laserface, tugging on his red and white striped arm-warmers. "But I had a subway sandwich on the way to the venue and that helped."

"After that, Halloween Fright Machine formed and I wanted us to be different and dress as witches, all in silver with silver face paint," says Sevlí. "So we kind of did that when we turned into the Sugar Coated Killers. We started off playing in dresses."

The first time I saw the Sugar Coated Killers was a few years ago at the Media Club, in Vancouver. Their

MAINLAND MAYHEM

unique, high-energy act in what looked to be homemade costumes was so out of the ordinary they were hard to forget.

"One night, me and the guitar player were in an alley and we went into a dumpster because we were very hungry and we found silver material that we taped onto our shoes," says Laserface

"We made moon boots," adds Poltergeist.

True to Hedwig and the Angry Inch's stairway to stardom that started with a gig at a buffet restaurant, the bands' first gig was a Coffee shop called Jar Jar Beans.

"It was crazy," says Sevlí. "The high school kids heard about us and like 85 people showed up. They were moshing in the front."

They also remember their first gig as Sugar Coated Killers.

"I was wearing a black dress," said Poltergeist.

"I was wearing a black dress too," says Laserface.

"You were wearing a friend's grad dress," says Sevlí.

"Sheila's grad dress."

"We had two stage dancers at that time, too," says Sevlí.

"Banana Doll Dish was one of the guys, a slim fella. The other guy was a monkey. They did choreography with me, Madonna type stuff and, you know, those moves that I do came from that."

"You know when you cut butter with a really hot knife?" says Laserface. "Our first show was like that...only with more beats."

"And balloons," says Sevlí.

Ironically, the band that understands what the Sugar Coated Killers went through to win over live music fans in the Okanagan is none other than the Black Halos. Billy Hopeless once complained to Sevlí about being called homos when they played in Kelowna.

"You put eyeliner on in Kelowna you're gonna be called a fag," says Laserface.

While this explains how the Black Halos relate to this glam rock band but what's still not entirely clear is how the Cobalt relates to the Sugar Coated Killers.

"Maybe we're so weird, we're punk," says Sevlí, who takes a minute to doll out five bucks each to the band members, their share for the evenings entertainment. Of his band he says, "We're like a relationship. We'll get together and fool around and then go back to our own lives...then get together and fool around.... then go on with our own lives[...]it's a loving relationship, the passion is there."

(The Cobalt is now open at 5pm - I got free beer for promising to say that - and to book your band for a Monday Night Khaos email: Km_timeslikethis@hotmail.com or Myspace.com/MondayNightKhaos. Also check out: Myspace.com/SugarCoatedKillers and Myspace.com/LesFlaneurs.)



EXIT STRATEGY CALGARY CARNAGE



Interview by Demonika

1. Tell us a bit about Exit Strategy... [What year were you formed, who's in the band, and were does the name come from, yada, yada, yada, you can go into detail]

Well, EXIT STRATEGY was formed during fall of 2005 featuring myself Joe Sikorski on guitars, Casey Rogers on drums, and briefly Dave Rooks on Bass. Originally we started out working on a revamped incarnation of THORAZINE. After a short period of time, we realized that the new material we had started to slap together wasn't really in the same vein as the last THORAZINE album. So after Shane Hawco joined the band, we made the decision to create a new identity and call it EXIT STRATEGY. The final piece of the puzzle came together once Greg Musgrave joined up. His contributions in the bass and vocal departments allow us to do so much more now than we could before.

Our name came from a short lived political buzzword. If you look up the definition of "Exit Strategy", it pretty much reads "a method of escape from an unfavorable situation". So next time you get yourself into trouble think "What is MY exit strategy?"

2. Most of you are in other bands... how do you find the time for both, balance them, and keep the sounds separate?

When I first got into playing music, I thought there wouldn't be enough to be able to focus on more than one band effectively, especially if you had several projects going. It actually took me a while to come around to realize that if you do only one project things may become limiting in terms of your writings. You can't be creative to the full extent if you limit yourself to working in one band, one style, and even one group of people possibly. Sometimes it is better to experiment playing with other people. Go jam and have fun first off, otherwise, this music thing can turn into a job really quickly. Also, having more than one band allows songs and sound to develop more freely because what might not work for one band, may work for one of your other projects.

3. Do you think the Calgary and area scene has been receptive?

Oh hell yeah! So far we have received very positive attention from around our hometown and Alberta. We've played some amazing shows and some really bad ones abroad too. Some of our best shows were right here in Calgary. Many people have come up to us over the last while and actually said they were impressed with not just the music, but with the fact the band has such a strong stance on certain socio-political issues. We have a saying "Better to stand for something, then to stand for nothing" and much prefer people thinking for themselves, then accepting something without thinking about it. So whether you like us or not, we've already accomplished what we intended to; we made you think!

4. How would you describe your sound to someone who has never heard you?

I dunno...I guess we consider ourselves a hybrid of death metal and grind core, but we include different elements from other genres as well. We throw in the odd hardcore and power metal riffs too just to upset people. Some purists can't stand the mixing of genres. Truthfully, we each bring different elements/influence to the table and we throw it in a blender and out pops EXIT STRATEGY: Now with Ingredients as Casey might put it.

5. What is your main focus for this project?

To create music that is challenging and entertaining for ourselves first off and then for the public. Also to provide meaningful concepts and messages that the listener can identify with or think about. Music and Man are on the potential edge of extinction, so now is the time to think for ourselves more than ever.

6. You have been working away on your first full length, "United State of Amnesia" how is this coming?

We just finished the CD side of the damn mess this week. It have taken nearly a year with delays and problems, blah, blah, blah...But now we are just tweaking the final mix of the CD and adjusting some of the samples in and around the music. The original plan was

to complete the recording process at the same time that our other project CAVEAT was recording our latest CD "Red" for Cyclone Records. But we found the process a lot easier to just complete it after the CAVEAT CD was completed. Also our member's availability prevented completion due to various reasons including work and geographic location. Shane lives in Edmonton, so that made it tough to complete in the first place. But in the end, the whole process is worth it!

7. What is the record based on? Do you find an occurring theme?

The debut album "United State of Amnesia" is based on several concepts. Songs like "Duality of Man" and "Wartorn Gaze" are based on War and the effects on those involved including children. Meanwhile we have songs more specifically about religion, global warming/ deforestation, media bias, and current global conflicts like the Iraq War for Oil situation. The imperialistic natures of certain governments have really been put under the proverbial microscope on this CD. However, we really want to engage the listener to think for themselves. The real goal we are trying to achieve is self empowerment through knowledge; make up your own minds.

8. After this comes out, what are your plans?

Go into hiding from the USA Homeland Security and avoid deportation to Cuba. If successful, we are planning on taking the show on the road and doing some eastern dates as well as another western Canada tour in the early spring. I guess the extent will be determined shortly, based on the response we get upon the release of the debut CD and if "they" find us...

9. Any last words? [Plug anything that needs plugging ... upcoming gigs, events, that kinda sheeit]

Keep on the lookout for EXIT STRATEGY in your hometown as we are releasing our debut CD "United State of Amnesia" in the next couple of months, so chances are we'll be rolling through.

We do have a couple of shows in Alberta in December and they are posted on our website/myspace pages. Check out our myspace page WWW.MYSPACE.COM/EXITSTRATEGYDEATHGRIND. We'll have the new website completed prior to the CD release in the next couple of weeks for sure. We are putting up some sample tracks from the CD in advance of the release!

Oh yeah, this magazine rawks!

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RUSSIAN ROCKENROL REVOLUTION

...a mostly stolen article about the Red Elvies by Liam Lux and a bunch of people who wouldn't leave his office.

I have a friend who's Russian, but she claims that she's not a spy. I know better. She's definitely KGB. I can tell because she's tall and striking and looks like she knows 15 ways to kill people with her baby fingernail. I recently asked her about the Red Elvies and she told me that she had no idea what I was talking about and asked me why I tell everyone she's a spy.

So I told her: The Red Elvies are a group of bona-fide Russian Rockabilly who earnestly believe that they are "your FAVOURITE band!". The group's founders, Igor Yuzov (vocals) and Oleg Bernov (balalaika bass guitar – a giant triangular Russian instrument that looks like something Fred Flintstone might play) originally ended up in the US as political refugees. After winning the International Band category on Star Search, they scored a Kit Kat commercial contract and it looked like their American Dreams were about to come true. Eventually they met Zhenya Kolykhanov (guitar) and Avi Sills (drums) and expanded the band. For the first couple of years they found themselves far closer to Hollywood than Siberia, performing on the sunny 3rd Street Promenade in Santa Monica.

From there they were eventually picked up to do a guest spot on Melrose place, which led to a deal writing the soundtrack for the amazing Lone-Wolf-and-Cub-in-Post-Apocalyptic-Las-Vegas movie called "Six String Samurai", where they also performed a cameo as a gang of, well, Russian Rockabillies.

Since then, they have appeared on Penn & Teller's Sin City Spectacular and VH-1's Behind the Music, composed the soundtrack (and did another cameo) for the 2003 film Mail Order Bride, performed as a part of the Live8 concert in Moscow, and have recorded at least 12 full-length albums on their own Shooba-Doobah Records.

Touring pretty much endlessly, the Elvies are relentless in their pursuit to bring their 'Russian Rokenrol Revolution' to every corner of the continent. "I've found the best way to bridge the gap between the United States and Russia is to drink a lot of beer together and get people to take their clothes off," Sills said, laughing, during an interview someone else wrote a long time ago. (Plagiarism is OK in communist countries. Just ask my KGB friend. And hopefully

REDEL VISES

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she won't strangle you dead with a single hair.)

The Russian Rockabillies return to Victoria on Thursday December 18th with the Pine Family at Lucky Bar.

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DAY 1

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Otep

by E.S. Day

After a label change-up, line-up rearrangement and other obstacles, singer/songwriter and poet Otep Shamaya has come out on top of her game once again, to shatter the myths surrounding her group Otep, the ever-changing face of the recording industry and has no qualms about letting people know who she really is.

E.S Day: Now that you're on a KOCH records, are you having more of a hand in the band's career than before?

Otep: I guess so! In terms of working with the new label, the biggest difference that I see is just how responsive and how involved they are. I don't think much has changed on my end; I'm still the fire starter on this side. It's just nice to actually work with a label that is so passionate about the band.

E.S Day: I'll tell you what would please us beyond measure: if fucking Otep would come to Vancouver! How come you never come here?!

Otep: [laughs] You know what? That has everything to do with our former label.

E.S Day: So it's nothing to do with the border?

Otep: Well, we did get into one issue with the border. I don't really know what it was, other than...

E.S Day: ...yeah, they're assholes! That's the problem.

Otep: That's it! They were searching our bus like crazy, and they were really focusing a lot of effort on me, and I thought

for a moment that perhaps all of that Bush bashing that I'd been doing had somehow filtered over into Canada. Maybe I'd been blacklisted, I had no idea.

E.S Day: You're not the first to say that.

Otep: It was so surprising because we were so excited and we didn't expect that kind of resistance. We've never been to Canada, and we really want to play there.

E.S Day: I noticed that some of your lyrics might point towards an older metal listener like myself, but at the same time you like to utilize social networking (MySpace, etc.) in order to get your point across. Do you find that some of the younger people using these networking sites don't get your point, and just focus on the pictures and video?

Otep: I'm not sure that age has much to do with it as much as that here's just too much information. There's people that I've met who are much older, and they just want to come out and drink a beer and rock out.

Then there are some who are interested in the lyrics and all of the hidden messages that they can find. It's always remarkable to me just to see the different ways that music affects people and what is meaningful to them about it, whether they just want to rock out or to attach themselves emotionally to it, or if there's something spiritual about the song that they find a connection with.

E.S Day: I think it's important for the fans to know that they shouldn't limit themselves to one genre of music, or one of the forty-five million sub-genres of heavy metal.

Otep: The one thing that I think is lacking in music is a sense of originality, and I think that most bands just try to copy something that they've already seen, which is already a copy. A copy of a copy of a copy, and it just keeps getting lighter and lighter and lighter until there's no substance to it. It's nothing. We're having the same sort of thing that happened back in the glam days. That's what it feels like to me. But then what happened after the glam days there was an influx of really good music, with good songwriters;

a communal aspect of art and dissidence. So hopefully something like that could happen again.

E.S Day: You've got a couple of new members in the band, correct?

Otep: We do. The drummer (Brian Wolff) been with me for awhile, but we do have a new guitar player (Aaron Nordstrom), and I'm very happy to welcome him into our family because he is probably one of the top two most talented guitar players that we've ever had play in this band, and to top it all off he's albino! He has a light sensitivity, so on stage with the lights shining on him he's basically playing blind. He's an amazing player! He's precise, he's passionate, he plays with emotion, but yet he rarely misses a note. I think that anyone that might have seen us play in the past has no idea what we have in store now; it's evolved into a total assault on the senses. It's really an amazing experience, and for me it is a seduction, like spiritual intercourse with my audience. There really is nothing like it at all.

E.S Day: Why do you think that the heavy metal/hard rock scene does not do nearly enough charitable work?

Otep: I think most bands that have gained popularity recently are all filler, no killer. It's all about image, and there's nothing with substance about it. What do they care about anything important other than the celebrity and notoriety that they get by playing music? There are some bands out there that actually do...

E.S. Day: There are some. But there are a lot of metal musicians that have passed away due to HIV and AIDS; it's never talked about, it's not brought up, and I've only seen a handful of bands that might help either bring awareness or contributions to the cause like yourself.

Otep: Like I said, I think it has more to do about them mainly caring about what they can get out of music instead of what music gives them; the opportunities that are given to us and the platform that we have to help a lot. We have a voice, we should use it for good things as well as our own selfish inclinations.

www.otepp.com

Otep's "The Ascension" is available is stores now on KOCH Records.



TORONTO TATTOO REVIEW

I'm here with world recognized Crazy Ace Daniels of Way Cool Tattoos. A tattoo artist, tattoo shop and franchise owner, body modification history collector and motorcycle enthusiast... did I miss anything?

How about general asshole?

Where did you grow up?

Who says I grew up? I kind of got the Peter Pan syndrome; I really don't want to grow up. I started off in Thunder Bay, Ontario if that's what you mean. Then it was Calgary, and then I headed South and disappeared for 26 years.

Where did you learn to tattoo?

I learned from a guy named Sonny Christianson. Not that he ever taught me anything, but he gave me the 'privilege' to watch. Old timers Curly Allen in Vancouver and Roy Johnson in Edmonton helped out a little bit, but I pretty much learned on my own.

When did you open your first tattoo shop?

It was 1971 in Duluth, Minnesota when my truck broke down. I had a choice, fix the truck and be broke or open a shop and make money to fix the truck. I called the shop New Horizons.

What is the most memorable tattoo you have done so far?

I've never forgotten any of them so I guess that makes them all memorable. I remember tattoos better than I remember people. To me skin is skin. I do not care if it is owned by a celebrity or a street person. All that matters is doing it right and making it look good.

Who are some of those celebrities and street people that you have tattooed?

Well, it's funny, because many of the celebrities were street people when I first tattooed them! I tattooed many bands and artists before they got recognized. It's always easier to get hooked up with them when there are nine of them living in a van. They tend to like to get some ink and celebrate a little bit. I've tattooed guys from Biohazard, Ministry, NIN, GWAR, Blitzphere, The Foo Fighters before they were the Foo Fighters, Scream, and of course Dirty Bird!

You were also part of the many artists to tattoo the Enigma.

Yeah, 23 of us tattooed him simultaneously. I tattooed his right arm from the middle to the back half of the center line. I had a pretty tough time where I was positioned because I had Horioshi 3 just to my right and he hand pokes. He has this big long stroke and he kept elbowing me in the eye.

Did the Enigma sit still or cry throughout the process?

He might have had an easier time if one guy hadn't chosen the bottom of his feet and another the top of his head. Right after that session he did a photo for the cover of Tattoo International magazine and you can see the blood in the area that I did. I hit him

hard and I can guarantee you that it's still there.

How did your friendship with GWAR get started?

The first Way Cool Tattoos shop in Richmond, Virginia was at 827 West Broad Street and GWAR was at 801. Our buildings were connected and you could walk across the roof right into their office. I saw their second show ever and have been close friends since.

Tell us about your connections to the GWAR comic books.

In the beginning, GWAR had what they called GWARNICA, which was really just a two page spread. Then there was a small 4 page comic made as an insert for the first album Hell-o. We drove up to Bongwater Records in New York, because I was the only one with a van at the time, and hand stuffed and shrink wrapped 1000 LP's.

I remember seeing you tattooing GWAR in a comic book.

That might have been one of the several comic books they did for me that you saw. Dave Brocky traded his back piece for my first 'Care and Feeding of a New Tattoo' comic book. I also traded some merchandise to Sexecutioner and Hunter Jackson to do some comic books for me.

Your new shop is in Woodstock, ON. Why should people come there to get tattooed by you?

I'm cheap, I'm fast, and I'll hurt ya.

What is your favourite style of tattooing?

I pretty much like all the old school stuff. Clipper ships, poison girls, daggers through roses, and hearts. I hate doing tribal stuff, but it all pays the rent so I pretty much tattoo anything.

What are the biggest changes you have seen in the tattoo industry during your 37 years of involvement?

The biggest change across the board is that it has become clean, clean, clean. There is more biohazard and cross contamination awareness. I see more artists getting involved. Back in the day, it was just drunks, bikers, and outcasts learning to tattoo, but now there are people with true artistic talent tattooing stuff I could only dream of doing. It's really great stuff.

I remember being thrown out of the first tattoo shop I went into three times before being given the 'opportunity' to receive my first tattoo. How has that occult mentality changed with all the tattoo shops that have sprung up in recent years?

Ah geez, I remember when there was a time, that if you walked into a tattoo shop and you didn't know what you wanted, you were told to get the fuck out. I've worked at shops where the guy says, "OK, it's Saturday. Today we are only gonna do eagles on left forearms. Anyone who wants one line up. The rest of you all can piss off!" If you were already tattooed on your left arm, and you were real lucky, he might tattoo your right arm if he felt like it. But that would mean



changing his chair around, and that always pissed him off.

Tattoos have also gotten a lot pricier these days.

We have gone from \$30 tattoos to \$300 ones. There are some artists out there that charge upwards of \$400/hr!

Is it worth it?

Fuck no! I still charge \$100/hr and I'm fast! I'll do in 2 hours what takes most artists 3.5.

You also collect body modification historical artifacts and books.

Yeah, I have a pretty extensive collection of ornamentation and tools as well as a good library of over 1000 books that all have something to do with body modification. It is all part of the research that I put into my body modification learning website www.bod-mod.com.

What is your most prized piece in your collection?

I have a signed first edition book by Horatio G. Robley called 'The Moko', which is probably the first ever publication done on the art of Maori tattooing. It was published in the late 1700's. It has been reproduced in paperback form and you can still buy it today, but it does not have all the big clear pictures like the one I have.

You are a motorcycle enthusiast.

Yeah, I've been riding Harley's for most of my life. I stole my first bike when I was 13.

Did you get caught?

Oh yeah! I got the shit smacked out of me! We were just looking for a little fun, and the guy probably wouldn't have been so mad if we hadn't plowed through the fence and into the pool at the local rec. center!

You also have a sidecar bike.

Yeah, I have an old Russian sidecar rig that I ride on and off road and during the winter months. It's not very fast but it sure is dangerous and that makes it fun. I am also building a sidecar bike with a friend of mine Pete Steckler so I can make an attempt at the world speed record for sidecar bikes under 650cc in Bonneville. It's kind of a Frankenstein bike of sorts, anything we can add to make it go faster or make as much noise as possible when it blows up, one or the other.

What do you think about cars?

Oh, they're an OK band but not really my kind of music.

What's your favourite drink?

I don't really drink alcohol very often any more, but I used to drink what we called a Skull Muncher. It's rock glass with 1 and ½ ounces of Jack Daniels and 2 ounces of pure grain alcohol.

Do you do any drugs?

I've been known to smoke, eat baked goods, and partake in just about any form of marijuana ingestion. I gave up the chemicals about 20 years back. I decided that rotting my brain was no way to go through life and I had seen what effects it had on many of my friends.

Where is the best pot in the world grown?

The best stuff I ever smoked came from the west slope of a mountain in Hawaii. It was just thick with pure purple hairs and all I can say is that it was just too damn good! I have had great stuff in Amsterdam when I was there with Cypress Hill and went to the Greenhouse. All the best stuff came out for us.

You are also an avid supporter of the Canadian independent music scene.

It seems that Canadian bands always get the shit end of the stick until they leave this county. Just think, if it wasn't for Canadian bands, we would be stuck listening to all that American crap that invades our radios and televisions. I just wish promoters of smaller venues would stop fucking ripping off the local talent and help out the bands that are in there area a little more.

What is the coolest venue for independent punk and metal music you have been to?

By and far the best was a squat in the old stables in Bern, Switzerland. There was also a great venue in Vienna, Austria in an entire industrial complex taken over by the punks and the anarchists. Squats in Europe make the best venues. In Canada I would have to really pay tribute to ole Spider and his Punkfest parties. After all he has been through he is still putting on some pretty hellacious shows.

Any last words?

Get tattooed. Better yet, come see me and get tattooed. Get tattooed anywhere as long as it is a real shop and not some amateur back room mistake. Do your research and find the right artists, spend the money, and be happy with your ink.

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Out For Your Brains

By Kristin Semchuk

The door creaks open a cloud of smoke slithers forth, the stench of death trails close behind it. The moonlight reveals something horrific that makes my skin crawl, I try to scream but my voice is trapped within the depths of my fear. Each breath sounds like a freight train as I try to evade the impending doom that stalks me. Finally I realize that it's just The Conniving Cadavers, they've come for their interview...phew.

Conniving Cadavers, a band that lives on the fence, somewhere between being too good for punk and not good enough for metal, no matter what you want to call them their ghoulish demeanor will surely win your heart...or eat it raw.

Like many bands the Conniving Cadavers started out in the basement, dallying along without any real direction, mastering covers by the album-full under the maiden title Brigade 88. Realizing that the name sounded too Oi punk they welcomed a suggestion from a friend and so they became Conniving Cadavers, which was up against the likes of 'Insane in the Membrane'. To honor the name-giver, they aptly dubbed their mascot scarecrow after him, Spencer. They have now been playing shows for three years starting out in the all ages scene and making their way to the big leagues of the 18 plus crowd in the last couple of years.

The band consists of three solid members, Anthony on vocals and guitar (Fat Tony), Fergie on drums and Scott on lead guitar. Fat Tony recently won best rhythm guitar at the 2007 Calgary Beer Core Awards that took place in July. Scott and Tony often trade off between rhythm and lead which makes it difficult to tell who really does what. No matter, they both wear each hat well. The bassist position is a cursed one with this band, they've had troubles hanging on to one and they've been through four different suitors.

The Conniving Cadavers just released their first full length album it has 9 songs and was

CONNIVING CADAVERS

recorded at Eco Base Studio with Casey Lewis. It has such favourites as 'Land of the Dead', 'Zombie Stompin' and Dead Flesh. You can pick up a copy at Sloth and Megatunes as well as at any of their live shows. Plans are in motion to put out a split with The Blind Assassins in spring 2008, this is guaranteed to be horror punkalicious.

Their influence ranges from Minor Threat to Slayer with a hearty helping of Misfits and Iron Maiden. They are very much a horror punk band but special in the sense that they're more talented than many 'punk' bands. As you read this Fat Tony is probably fucking the dog at work, thinking about the most dreadful and atrocious scenarios in his demented mind. It passes the time and entertains his morbid brain all the while giving way to more Cadavers material.

One thing that has always kept me interested with the Cadavers, aside from their wild lyricism is the way they all participate on stage. I can tell they enjoy themselves up there. I especially love the dance that Fat Tony does, it's reminiscent of MJ's Thriller dance but toned down to our layman's level making it the Zombie Stomp. It's very macabre and evil looking, I wish that I'd thought of it. One day we may be lucky to see the harmonica resurrected from the grave, but I'm told it will be a cold day in hell before that happens.

For all of the horror lovers out there, you need to at least come out to a show and check out a set, these boys take horror punk to the next level. It's like smiling at someone all the while imagining their bloody murder. Until then, lock your doors, hide under your blanket, keep the night light on, the Cadavers are coming for you.

Calgary Beer Core: Rock For Tots 2007

This year's grand total has climbed to approximately \$4000 with the help of 9 shows, 35 bands, 5 Venues and a sassy Calgary Babe Core Calendar. All of the profits raised from our efforts will go to providing children in need with presents on Christmas day. We thank all those who participated this year and in years before, without your help, we'd be lost. We still have Calendars for sale; they are available at The Distillery Public House in Calgary, AB or for out-of-towners, online, email kris_semchuk@hotmail.com.





CAREFUL WHERE YOU STICK THAT “BILLY”

...an interview with ¾ of the Switchblade Valentines by Liam Lux
I've always said that the only way the Switchblade Valentines could possibly be better is if they had a chick with great big tits in the band. When vocalist RP Fogarty left for a while last year, it seemed like they finally had their chance. Unfortunately they never did find a mammically-endowed singer, and eventually RP came back and ruined everything. Everybody still seems to think they're an awesome fucking band though, and I guess I have to agree, even if they are a little bit titless.

Halloween marked your three year anniversary... aren't you guys sick of each other yet?
MIKEY: No, not yet. It's amazing actually. I mean I've been trying to get kicked out of this band for 2 1/2 years. I'm a real fucking cunt but no one ever gets mad.

PAULY: I don't remember but it's been fucking fantastic. Whatever the case I could never be sick of these guys.
RP: Except for Pauly. We make a lot of fun of Pauly. Sorry Pauly.

Ryan left the band for a little while... where did you go, and why did you come back?
RP: I left for the Army. But they don't let visible tattoos in the army anymore. I decided to try and come back because I owed the guys a lot of money and they still had my guitar, so... here I am!

Is the rest of the band happy to have Ryan back? Or are you just being nice?
MIKEY: It wasn't the Valentines without him.

PAULY: The Switchblade Valentines are not the Switchblade Valentines without the Switchblade Valentines. Does that make any sense? What I mean is it's not a bunch of individuals that can come and go without changing the dynamics.
Is the current line-up here to stay?

MIKEY: ...till death do us part.
The new album “Through the Flames” was released in August. Where did you record, with who?
RP: Tolan McNeal! His studio is called Lucky Mouse. It was an incredible time. Thanks to Tolan and Hoff and Troy at Storm, we got it out JUST in time for the CD/Tour kick-off. Big thanks to them!
The sound is definitely different from your first album (although it's still unmistakably the Switchblade Valentines). Is this a natural evolution or a decision to move in a bit of a different direction?

MIKEY: More of a natural progression I guess, but I think we all were getting a bit tired of being paired up almost exclusively with Rockabilly bands when we toured. Rockabilly is fun and it's part of our sound but too much of a good thing becomes a bad thing very quickly. We are a Rock n' Roll band and you don't have to wear a poodle skirt or grease your hair back to have a good time at our shows.
What's it like to have to take care of everything yourselves, including recording, distro, tours, etc?

MIKEY: Expensive, time consuming and a general pain in the ass... but it's still worth it.
PAULY: It has a sense of pride that goes with it but I find there are so many obstacles. You really have to work hard to get to people because most people listen to what they are told to listen to. No one is telling them to listen to us so they don't give a shit. You gotta keep touring and driving it into peoples heads that we exist, then they come around and have a great time.

Are you trying to stay true to your DIY roots and protecting the integrity of your music, or are you waiting for some cigar-wielding fat cat to roll up with contracts, cigars, a limo full of third-string supermodel coke sluts and promises of fame and fortune?

PAULY: The album is 100% DIY but I wouldn't mind a little help in finance. It would be so much nicer not to have to deal with douchebag promoters who make a living off fucking over independent bands.
MIKEY: Why... do you know someone?

How did you score the sparrow guitar sponsorship?
MIKEY: We knew Billy Bones(owner of Sparrow) because of his band Raised By Wolves. We played a few shows with them when our band first started. Billy and Skinny Tim were just getting Sparrow guitars off the ground and we managed to weasel a sponsorship deal out of him. Since then they've really taken off. He's got bands like the Nekromantix an the Headcat (Lemmy's rockabilly band) on board now so we're lucky we snuck in early.

With two cross-Canada tours and one through Western Canada (plus a show in Seattle), how is the response overall?
PAULY: Hardly any of the shows are like the ones in our hometown, but every time we play a city again there are more people out. It's different every town.

RP: Little butt-fuck towns are generally a shitload of fun. These are places where kids don't get shit. And when they do, they dig it hard. The whole country is rad, too bad it's so fuckin' BIG!
What are the best and worst things that have happened on tour?

RP: A bad day on tour is better than a good day at work!
Check out the Switchblade Valentines with The Hits and Growler on Friday December 14th at the Lucky Bar! (\$10 advance tix at Lyle's and Backstage Pass)
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"flame broiled 90's skatepunk"

Interview: David Lemieux – guitars

by: Pauly Hardcore

After countless shows, beers & flame cooked meat, this up and coming band, sounding quite similar to the early 90's skatepunk explosion, with an updated mix of influences and range are forging a name for themselves at home & abroad. A forthcoming debut album early in the new year and rumors of a tour simmer over the spit, while I hash out the bands take on whats engulfing them at the moment. Their brand of melodic technical punk will appeal to fans of Satanic Surfers, Lagwagon, No Fun at All and the likes.

AU: So the name loosely means BBQ, favorite variety?

David: Anything cooked in a drunken haze drizzled with cheap beer and random spices.

AU: Who are some influences, musical or otherwise?

D: We've always had a big influence from the more technical punk bands out there. Everyone in this band has been a big fan of the melodic skate punk scene for a long time and we wear those influences prominently on our sleeves.

U: Views on p2p file sharing?

D: Looking forward to finding an Asado torrent out there once our disc is out. Nowadays file sharing is the best way to discover new bands and for that reason I'm totally behind it. Traditionally bands tour like mad and build up a following

the Winnipeg "scene" right now, bands, venues and such.

D: Winnipeg's got a great scene, there's no one genre that everyone plays. It's pretty diverse in that way. We're still mourning the loss of the Collective Cabaret, which was a important Punk/Rock/Metal bar for a long time, but there will always be places to play and new venues emerging. Even if the band has to play a stripper stage with a warm pole in the middle.

AU: What movies are your eye candy right now?

D: Superbad is definitely a favorite right now. We've been quoting a lot of Grandma's Boy lately as well...

AU: James was making a comic, is he still, whats going on there?

D: I think that might have just been a product of James' anger and a bottle of whiskey after he realized that he will never be as good as Jay at Double Dragon II.

through a lot of grunt work. Things are changing. We have people from all over the world dropping comments on our myspace. There's no way we could cover that much ground without the internet.

AU: Tell us about

WRETCHED WINNIPEG

AU: Word association time

prairies: weakerthans songs

roadkill: cafe

weed: after the show

organized religion: shopping

satanic surfers: Tomek died and Eric smoked his ashes.

2girls1cup: hot mic action

the Albert: will have a million songs written about it in the next year.

AU: When will you be on the West Coast? Victoria needs some tasty BBQ.

D: We're marinating a beauty for ya!

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Interview by Jeff VanHammerElzen

In 1998, four high school friends started a band and set out to tear up stages across Ontario. A move to Toronto later and the same four members of The Heatskores are still packing a thrashy, ska-tinged punk rock punch. Comprised of members Buddy Disease (guitar/vocals), Eddy Earwigg (vocals), Pez (drums), and Davey D (bass, vocals, organ), they've played shows with The Dwarves, Leftover Crack, Dayglo Abortions, DOA, Big Wig, The Planet Smashers, The Slackers, the Subhumans (UK). Having toured the East Coast many times, the band spent November touring Western Canada (for the first time) in support of their album "Smile...Tomorrow Will Be Worse", which is available from Pink Skull Records/Sonic Unyon Distro. The band showed off their high energy show at gigs in Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Whistler, and Vancouver, and plenty of smaller cities along the way.

I set up an email interview with singer Eddy Earwigg and it went something like this:

Me: Where does the ska influence come from? It definitely works within your music, but I'm thinking you're far more of a punk band first and foremost. Accurate?

Eddy: The ska has always been there for

us. It was just a staple in the music writing, especially when we first started out, all the bands we listened to had the ska mixed into the punk, Operation Ivy, Choking Victim, Rancid, stuff like that. After a few years of writing ska tunes, with the bursts of punk in the middle, we gradually started writing punk tunes with a ska touch in them. We've moved away from it, mostly because we feel more comfortable with the punk thing.

Me: How was the Western Canadian tour? Tell us about it.

Eddy: We've been out east to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec a bunch of times... and those tours were great... but I can honestly say this tour out west was the most fun I had on tour. I have to thank Robbie Stuntman, Yvo and even John Tard/Mr. Plow for helping out the most with all of it. There were some nights where you think to yourself, "shit, this show is fucking bullshit" but then you meet one or two people who really dug your set, and it makes it all worth it... they buy a pin or a shirt and it makes you happy. This happened a few times because some of the tour was booked last minute, but I think we did a really good job those crappy nights, in making good contacts, and just meeting great people. I swear I've never met so many nice people in such a short amount of

time. I never thought any promoter would bring us home after a show and give us all her canned food, free beer and whatever else food we wanted, but it happened in Vancouver (thanks Wendy13)... In Red Deer, the promoters, Jen and Jodi, paid for all our food and beer and then fixed our brakes. Can you believe that? Our brakes on the van were about to die, and Jodi fixed them before work. That's just 2 examples, I can go on for hours about what promoters, bands, or just people who loved our set did for us... it blows me away how nice people were on this tour. And like any band we had moments where we fought about bullshit, didn't have enough money for gas or missed home or whatever, but in the end, I think this was the best tour we had.

Me: Davey's bass lines are insane. It's like he's soloing at all times, yet they make perfect sense in keeping the songs running smooth. How does he do it? I was kind of freaked out watching him play. I bet he could do that in his sleep.

Eddy: Davey started out as a guitar player, I've known him since I was 10 years old, and I can't think of a time when he didn't know how to play music. There are moments when I look over at him on stage, and I think "You gotta be kidding me... there's no way that's the bass line for this song". But, who

knows, maybe he does have some sorta pattern or method. It makes me believe it more when it takes him 10 takes to get the bass line perfect for a track on a CD.

Me: Who have you played with that made all the shitty times worthwhile?

Eddy: We love playing with The Legendary Klopeks, The Outbred Inlaws and the 3tards. Those are my favorite... they're really good friends. But I mean, it's always great sharing the stage with people you look up to, like Vic Ruggiero from the Slackers, Blag from The Dwarves and all of Leftover Crack (whoever is in that band at the time we play with them, or can get across the border).

Me: Is there anybody you'd like to give a giant "Fuck You" to?

Eddy: Winnipeg

Me: What's next for The Heatskores? Coming out west again any time soon?

Eddy: Yes for sure, the tour was amazing, but I have a feeling after meeting the right people this time around, the next time will be ever better. We're planning on recording something small at a good studio. Writing more, touring more, basically just keep going... we're not going to stop.





Chuck Wurley interviews Joe Queer

So, as I am sure many of our readers remember, the Queers show that was supposed to happen at Lucky Bar this past summer, got canceled the day before it was supposed to happen. I was the promoter, it kinda sucked for all involved. Since then I have spoken to the legendary Joe Queer, many times and he is doing his best to return this way sometime, and feels horrible about the whole ordeal (and explains and apologizes below, without me saying he should). The man rules in my opinion, and if the Queers do come to Victoria one day, it will go down in history as an amazing show I am sure. To tide you over until he and the boys do play, here is what Joe has to say about a few different subjects.

Chuck Wurley: So the band started in 1982 and broke up in 1984, to start again in 1990 correct?

Joe Queer: Yeah, well we just fucked around in the early 80's and did like 4 shows. In the mid 80's I hooked up with JJ Rassler and Hugh O'Neill and we did shows around Beantown with different lineups. By 1990 we had been broken up for a while but Hugh and I wanted to do one album before we called it quits so we met BFace and started playing around. We met Ben Weasel and he hooked us up with Lookout and here we are.

CW: The band originally had Wimpy Rutherford on lead vocals? You guys have since had him on an album, plus you guys and Tulu still do the Drunken Cholos right?

JQ: Yeah Wimpy still sings now and then with us on the road. He came with us to Japan and Korea last month where the kids loved him. We usually do our regular set and call him up to do 15-20 minutes at the end of the night. We are working on songs for the Drunken Cholos next album right now.

CW: Explain the Drunken Cholos.

JQ: Basically Wimpy, Tulu and I -the original lineup of The Queers.

CW: You recently toured with Marky Ramone is that correct? How was he to

tour with? Interesting tales to tell?

JQ: Yeah we opened the shows and Dave our bass player and I jumped onstage with Marky for his set. He had a singer from a great band in Argentina-The Expulsados. Check them out as they are the best band I have discovered in years. Marky was great to tour with. I mean it's an honor to be

onstage with him and fun to play Ramones' songs. I am doing a tour diary and I have a few stories from that tour in it. The road crew were all idiots but that wasn't Marky's fault haha.

CW: Plus you toured the US and part of Canada this year?

JQ: Yeah we have been busy as hell, we are coming back to eastern Canada in January. We were so bummed we had to cancel the Victoria show as Vancouver was nuts. Since you were the promoter I don't have to explain the whole thing but for those of you who thought we just canceled cause we were bored- I had to fly home for my wife's green card meeting with US immigration in Atlanta and I couldn't get to my flight the next morning from Seattle if we played the show. We'll be back.

CW: You tour every year don't you?

JQ: We have been touring so much the past three years I am ready to take a break.

CW: Would you say that when the Queers put out "Love Songs For the Retarded" that that time was the heyday of really good pop punk? That was approximately when Screeching Weasel were in their prime, the Queers had a more solid lineup, and you guys put out some very very memorable material. Not to diss

your new stuff. You can still write!

JQ: Haha! Yeah, well that was a good album though we have done better stuff after-"Don't Back Down", "Pleasant Screams" and "Punk Rock Confidential" were all great albums though overlooked compared to "Love Songs". That was a fun time as you say though cause Screeching Weasel, MTX, The Muffs, tons of great bands were around.

CW: Heard that Methadones tune Losing Touch? That makes me think of how the music I love seems to have somewhat gone by the wayside. It is still rad and there is still lots of it out there, I guess it is just no longer in the limelight.

JQ: Yeah, well fewer and fewer bands are doing pop punk any good. Most of the newer bands that kids say are great couldn't keep up with Screeching Weasel or MTX back in the day at all. These new bands are overrated. Listen to The Expulsados from Argentina. They make all these new bands look like idiots.

CW: Going to keep doing this forever Joe?

JQ: No and I am getting sick of touring. I'm trying to stay

home more but I have a few more projects in me yet.

CW: How long did Vapid and Panic play in the Queers?

JQ: Well we just did "Beat Off" and then I think two tours with them. It was fun.

CW: What are you fave books?

JQ: "Confederacy of Dunces" is one of my faves and I love PG Wodehouse too. I read a lot of old English stuff.

CW: Favorite movies?

JQ: Vernon Florida and Blood Feast. Plan 9 From Outer Space. Pink Flamingos.

CW: Most influential band that I would never guess?

JQ: Jesus and Mary Chain-Love them!!

CW: Best tour, or most memorable?

JQ: Hmm-I really had a great time on the tour we did with The Hard Ons and Toys That Kill. All of the guys in the bands were fun to tour with and both those bands are great too. The tour we did with Chixdiggitt a few years ago was fun too. I love that band.

CW: Worst or funniest experience?

JQ: Oh man the worst was probably touring and doing drugs which sounds fun but sucked and funniest was maybe traveling with the road crew on this Marky Ramone tour we just did, it was retarded but we couldn't help but laugh.

CW: Ok, I gotta know you have never struck me as someone who is into ska music at all. But you guys always tour with the Independents? Is it just cause they are the only ska band that takes it to a more punk level or something? I love em personally, probably the only horror/ska outfit I have ever heard.

JQ: Oh I love The Independents, they are one of my fave bands to tour with. We are going out again with them next spring. I do like some ska but most ska bands have all these horns on every single song and to me using horns on every song is like using a wa pedal on every song, it sounds stupid. If the song calls for it then yeah that's fine but on every song? Nag. I saw Madness, Op Ivy, Mighty Mighty Bosstones, all great bands but most ska bands all look like my parents' accountants, fuck that shit.

CW: Worst band ever?

JQ: Hmm, maybe Anti Flag or Dropkick Murphys. Anti Flag cause I hate bands telling everyone who to vote for and act like they know something we all don't. Dropkicks cause that whole Irish thing breeds prejudice and that inevitable leads to racism. Who cares if you're Irish? Hell I am but I don't think sitting around a bar room drinking all day makes me any smarter than the average cretin walking down the street eating a donut.

CW: You had a fairly established lineup with B Face and Hugh. That all changed when Hugh passed away?

JQ: We were fighting before it ended, over money and shit. Lookout, as history has proved, were ripoffs after Larry sold it. It was a mess cause we were all fucked up drinking and drugging. BFace only drank but anyway yeah it was all stupid shit. I moved on and haven't regretted a thing. I mean I miss those guys but not that time necessarily.

CW: "Beyond the Valley of the Assfuckers" was written after Hugh died and was really angry and went back to the old days, even had Wimpy on it. Comment on this?

JQ: We were getting ripped off by Hopeless Records and owed them an album so I gave them that little kiss.

CW: What do you think of the Darlington song, Joe Queer Suxx? Haha

JQ: I don't pay attention to that shit. Chris is harmless.

CW: Is that song kinda like your Ben Weasel tune?

JQ: Well Ben sang on "Ben Weasel" and the song isn't a putdown of him, it is sung from the point of view of a stupid punk fan complaining about Ben and being jealous.

CW: Any comments on the Ramones? First time you saw them? Most memorable time you ever saw them?

JQ: Yeah I loved them the first time I heard them, and saw them too many times to count. They taught me to not take myself so seriously and to question things. To be able to laugh at myself. All great stuff to get through life.

CW: What exactly drove you to start the Queers in the first place?

JQ: We were just sitting around drinking beer and listening to The Meatmen and decided we were better than them and we didn't even have a band haha.

CW: Any other comments on pop punk in general?

JQ: Yeah most of it is lame as fuck.

CW: Comments on the Queers? Comments on Screeching Weasel?

JQ: We may not be the greatest but we never sold out like all the alleged punk bands out there on the Warped Tour and major labels. Screeching Weasel on their worst day is a million times better than Teenage Bottlerocket on their best day.

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ARISE AND RUIN

“where’s the party?”

Interview w/ Ben Alexis - Bassist

Interview by Pauly Hardcore

Guelph Ontario’s Arise & Ruin, are carving a path in the metal ranks and making their names heard. With a punishing first full length on Victory Records, these dudes are out to assault your ears with a healthy dose of Metal. Fresh off of a Eastern Canadian Tour in support of their debut album “The Final Dawn” I got the chance to see what these guys are all about: starts w/ P, ends with Y and sometimes the euphemism “pissed yourself” is a foregone conclusion.

AU: Tell us how the recent tour went?

Ben: Our most recent tour was sweet, we were out with our buddies The Holly Springs Disaster and I got so wasted in PEI and I smashed a bunch of shit and then passed out in a hallway for a good portion of the morning, then woke up with no pants on with their drummer. The rad part is, I don’t remember a thing, so I mean in that time I probably won a few grand on bingo and blew it all on hookers!

AU: Let us in on the new album, process - sound & artwork?

Ben: Alright so basically how it went down was, we stopped drinking for long enough to fire out 10 songs that we felt were rad enough for a full length. So then we called up our buddy Ken who also recorded our EP and drove our asses down to Massachusetts to start recording the album. High-

lights would include \$15 cases of Pabst and sitting around the bonfire. And the artwork, what the hell is more metal than a couple of evil horses fighting in front of some badass looking clouds? This dude Justin from angryblue.com drew it, his stuff is sweet, check it out!

AU: How did you guys get together & whats the story with the name?

Ben: Coneez and I met on the playground in grade 4, dude was going around with a petition trying to get all the kids in school to sign in hopes of convincing his parents to move back to Mount Forest because he was into dirt bikes and snowmobiles, I’m pretty sure his dad actually drove him to school on a snowmobile once, I’m serious, then like 10 years later we started a metal band. Oh and the story behind the name is pretty easy, Pig Destroyer was taken.

AU: word association time

BC Bud – Ren Bacuhman, he hooked us up with our trailer, he’s a real buddy from BC

Lemmy- mole

Barricades- sounds like Bacardi, lets party!

Crown Royal- party

Burzum- I should have continued with an education, what the hell does that even mean?

Terrorist- Raffi

Groupie- party

****Burzum** – Swedish metal dude, Murdered Guitarist from Mayhem and torched a few churches.

AU: What music do you dig on, and some must own albums?

Ben: Right now I can’t get enough of Justin Timberlake’s latest, that album it slays, I’m dead serious. Otherwise must haves as far as I’m concerned, At The Gates - Slaughter Of The Soul and Depeche Mode’s - Violator are both pretty



huge albums in my life, what else, oh Michael Jackson’s – Thriller, MUST HAVE!

AU: Who have you guys toured with and some favorite places?

Ben: Oh man, too many bands to name, some favorites would be the time August Burns Red and Arise and Ruin took over the Tiki Bar at the Coconut Motel in Trois Rivières, Quebec. Basically anywhere in Quebec is a good time, Quebec City looks sweet and is full of barbers, there’s poutine everywhere and this onetime we played in Mordore and Coneez slayed a dragon with his bare hands, battered and deep fried its wings and got the biggest bucket of blue cheese I have ever seen.

AU: Any plans on hitting us up on the West Coast?

Ben: Yes as soon as we have a fully operational van again, we will get our ass out there and drink all their beer too!

AU: Any other local bands to keep an eye on?

Ben: Our buddies Farewell to Freeway have an album coming out in the new year also on Victory, but otherwise my favorite local band right now is probably The Reason, I mean Cannibal Corpse, PARTY!

www.ariseandruin.com

www.myspace.com/ariseandruin

GWAR... Again!?!?

Interview with FLATTUS MAXIMUS - Guitar :

by Ira Hunter, Mr. Plow, and Ange Trash

Some people have said we've had GWAR in the mag too many times. But that's what GWAR is all about, pure overkill. We started out by interviewing our bro Joe D. legendary pit slave and blood technician, then we finally got to speak with the main man Dave Brockie aka ODERUS URUNGUS, then we snagged BEEFCAKE: THE MIGHTY for last issue. Well we said fuck it and put GWAR in the mag again. This time by interviewing guitarist FLATTUS MAXIMUS aka Cory Smoot. After being bribed with drugs, women, and a free skateboard, he hooked Mr. Plow, Ange Trash (Lesbian Fist Magnet) and myself up with backstage access, where the other members of GWAR were locked in an epic Guitar Hero battle for the supremacy of mankind!

AU- Cause we got everyone else in Gwar, its Cory's turn. Who are you in Gwar?

Maximus- Uh nobody. I'm just a fucking 'nother piece of shit.

AU- Flattus Maximus?

Maximus - Um no Flattus but Maximus will do.

AU- I guess Flattus is a little too close to flacid?

Maximus - Uh it's pretty close to a lot of things. I personally refer to it as um blatant.

AU- Blatant Maximus?

Maximus - Yes very true. I noticed there's a lot of construction going on here but the dynamite doesn't seem to get me off as much as I would like.

AU- Ask him a question Plow.

Maximus - Plow fucker! Come on!

Mr. Plow- Are you smoking any of this joint or no?

Maximus - Hell no! But if you got a line of coke I'll do it.
[Laughter]

AU- The truth is coming out!

Ange Trash- Give him some of that

Plow- Oh shit she's all fucking wasted.

AU- So tell us... everyone wants your skateboard tonight... tell us why you got the skateboard.

Maximus - Well first off I'm special, and uh I don't skate therefore I deserve a skateboard, and being that I know Mr. Plow and Gene Hoglan, and Devin Townsend and all your local Vancouver hooligans I deserve at least a piece of wood, seven ply, with a picture of almost Oderus on it.

AU- Ange Trash here might have a question for you.

Ange- I don't. But hey I taught him the fucking rock lock though!

Maximus - She did teach me the rock lock and I eternally love her for that and as long as she's not one of y'all's girlfriends I'd like to take her home with me.

AU- I'm her wing man and I have to vouch for her... She might be good to go.

Maximus - Maybe we get a ménage a twizzle on in some kind of fucked up form.

AU- If we throw Mr. Plow in the mix what would we call that?

Maximus - Plow got my love till the end, and whatever Plow wants he won't get from me.

Plow- But I did.

Maximus - Well just a little bit. But only the tip.

Plow- It's all I wanted.

Maximus - It's all I had.

AU- So another Vancouver show, and your going to Seattle tomorrow?

Maximus - Honestly Vancouver/Seattle to me it's all rain.

Plow- So how was the CKY tour?

Maximus - CKY? Wow um sure.

AU- Did they get killed on stage at all or...

Maximus - No they killed themselves within two weeks of the tour and dropped off and um I don't think they're together anymore.

AU- Roughly translated they're a bunch of puss-wusses or what?

Maximus - Um more like philly cheese and steak looking pussy lips.

[Hysterical laughter]

Ange- That's a great one!

Maximus - Welcome to my life sweetheart.

AU- So do you enjoy coming to BC?

Maximus - BC, I love it. It's so fucked up. Wanna know why? One it's the most beautiful scenery but then again I've never seen so many crack heads in alleyways, like its like watching Dawn of the Dead.

Ange- Zombies smoking crack.

Maximus - But that's the crazy thing... I ain't got no money for em'.

[Laughter]

AU- And you tour through some of the worst parts of the States...

Maximus - I live in the worst part of Vancouver, it's called the USA.

(A drunken Scottish guy named Angus passes Flattus a burning joint)

Maximus - You're a bad influence on me. Who's this guy?

AU- We know, he's passing you weed and you don't even smoke weed.

Maximus - I tried it twice and it was just now.

Ange- I'm getting writing all over my boobs.

Maximus - She's got motherfuckers signing her titties.

AU- This is going in the magazine; the titties and the men that signed the titties.

Ange- Here someone can have my boob doobage.

Maximus - Boob doobage?

Ange- I'll take it and put it in my boobs. I have boob doobage still. Security checked everything else when I came in.

AU- One more question. Any advice for the little kids out there sleeping in their beds right now?

Maximus - Um... if you lose your tooth don't put it underneath your pillow.

Ange- Yeah the tooth fairy's a hoax man.

Maximus - Stick it in your twat and it serves as a good douche.

[Ange laughs]

AU- We better end it there! I don't know...

Maximus - I hope this was in character cause that's what I totally did it in. Plow what do you think?

Plow- I think it was gold.

Maximus - Plow thinks its gold, I think its aluminum.

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CJ Sleez the musician is not new to many who read Absolute Underground, but what is new, is CJ Sleez herself. Clean from drinking, drugs, and a rock ‘n’ roll lifestyle of excess, she has found new focus and a love of life. Her artistic passions in all forms of multimedia are being realized in her many accomplishments, and it’s long past due time to reintroduce the very beautiful and talented, CJ Sleez. Let’s start with the musician most people know and ask what’s new with CJ Sleez?

Well, I’ve been totally excited about starting my new band Electric Empire! Most of the music is written and I am just starting to look for some hot new band mates to get the fun on the road!

What will the Electric Empire sound like?

Metal for sure. Hard driving, heavy, and melodic, yet still typical CJ Sleez raunchy at times. My inspirations musically are old school metal bands like Judas Priest and Iron Maiden mixed with stuff like Crue and GnR. I can’t wait to put my vocals over a brand new lineup playing these new songs! The new lyrics are very positive and strong for the first time ever. They are about coping with hard times, and surviving them, only to come out stronger from the experience. Who are some of your favourite bands to listen to?

It’s all about the rock ‘n’ roll. I recently



and follows my life through to age 26 when I completed writing the book. Although comical at times, it is a very dark story that is pure uncensored sex, drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll. It’s raunchy, crazy, taboo stuff!

Are there any hidden secrets exposed in the book?

Not really, because I don’t really have any hidden secrets. I’ve always just said things the way I see them and don’t really hide anything, but there is still a lot of juicy stuff in there if that’s what you mean!

At the end of the book you were left with the experience of a failed suicide.

Things have come a long way since that. After the book ended I was in the hospital for a really long time with severe depression. I left my band, moved back to the city, and was lost for about a year messed up on hard drugs. I was speed balling every morning and shooting up all the time. One day there was a total mental and existential breakdown and I completely lost it. I’m not sure why but I prayed for the first time in my life and admitted my weakness. It was an incredible feeling to admit my worst inner demons, but within a few days things actually started getting better with me.

What are some of the better things in your life now?

Well I am clean and sober and I have a new outlook on life. It’s a terrible thing, but when you use hard drugs as heavily as I did, you totally lose who you really are and lose all

motivation in life. I am just beginning to enjoy life, and get all of myself back, and it feels like such an amazing rush. Every morning now I wake up inspired and enthusiastically get working on more art. It’s like the saying ‘what doesn’t kill you will only make you stronger’, but only if you learn from it.

Have you learned from it?

Most definitely I have. In my new book I write about all the things that I had to learn the hard way. And how it has given me even more reason to use my art to reach out and help others cope with the same kind of crap that I had to go through. My art has always been my way of communicating to the rest of the world and what I want to tell everyone is that I believe anything can be possible if you put your mind and heart to it. I like to encourage people if they want something they should just go for it, and if it helps just one person then it was worth all the effort.

Let’s talk tattoos.

I love tattoos! I love giving and getting them!

Giving them?

Yup! I worked as an artist for a few years before I decided to pursue my music and writing, but I have not done many lately. I still get tattooed regularly though. I love it and will only stop when I am about two thirds covered. I still like the contrast between clean and inked skin.

What is your favorite style of tattooing?

I really like old school stuff like hearts and daggers, flames, roses, and things with symbolism.

What is your favorite tattoo?

Greg at Sinkin’ Ink in Hamilton did a hydra dragon on my lower left leg that I am really happy with. Now I get a lot of my work done my Andres Miller at TCB Tattoos in Toronto.

He is just awesome.

Do you have any cover ups or tattoo regrets?

Well, I have had two guys names covered over already! The only other cover-ups I did were for overall balance. I think tattoos look best when they shape to the body and look like ornaments rather than just pasted on any random place.

Would you like to say ‘hi’ to anyone?

Ha! Not Really!

How about a ‘fuck you’ to someone?

Only to their face!

Where is the best pot grown?

Right here in Toronto baby! I am totally proud of Toronto and will always back what I feel is the best city in the world!

There is a lot anti-Toronto sentiment all across Canada. What makes Toronto so great in your eyes?

It’s young, vibrant, and prosperous. It’s got a lot of thriving artists with local support. Toronto’s culture is amazing because you can experience most of the rest of the world in true tradition here. It is so multicultural and diverse that you get the best part of everywhere in the world here. You can get anything from any corner of the world at just about any time of day here in Toronto. The people here are incredibly nice. It’s just awesome. I moved here 10 years ago and I will call Toronto home for the rest of my life.

Any last words you would like to say?

All I want to say to everyone out there is just to keep on keeping on. Stay strong and focus on the good times no matter how few and far between they are, because those are the ones that are going to get you through the hard times. Things can get better, so... rock ‘n’ roll!

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“About Bloody Time”

by Jake Warren

If this article is in print and people are in fact picking up this rag and reading it, then I can once again safely walk the streets of Vancouver. You see, way back last summer I interviewed Vancouver / Edmonton based hard-core act Savannah at their Canadian Tour kick-off show. I spoke with the entire band (Although not everyone got his comments printed) and EN Roberts took some killer shots. But when the time came to man up and write the piece I shit the bed and missed the deadline. I've done it before and it usually isn't a big deal. But this time I had to make a seriously cautious apology to some of the most intimidating dudes in the city. Savannah guitarist and Vancouver scene vet Cam was cool about the fuck-up and I assured him it wouldn't happen again. Plus, with time to kill before the next issue, we could meet at the end of the tour for an update.

For part 2 of the interview I met Cam at The Cambie where I got a play-by-play of Savannah's huge Canadian summer tour and news about the groups progress with an on-line distribution deal. But when the editors and myself decided the story would be lost within the pages of an all-Halloween issue, the piece was once again put in storage.

Coming out of hiding for a show one Friday night I found Cam in the smoke room of Pub 340. With cold beers as a peace offering I held my breath and broke the news. The beer was a good idea and he took the second round of groveling as well as can be expected.

So finally, after almost 5 months and 2 failed attempts, here's



the two-part interview with hard-working and hard-living Savannah. The first part takes place at the now defunct Buffalo Room on Granville just before sound check.

AU – So what's the history of Savannah anyway?

CAM - We were basically formed from the remains of a band from Edmonton called Compromise started by Junior. He had a completely different line-up – around 2002. We've had a few line-up changes. Basically we just try and keep ourselves on the road as much as possible. We've got a couple recordings out. We've toured with Strapping Young Lad, Hatebreed, Misery Signals, Sworn Enemy.

AU - Tell me about your trip to New York...

Cam - We just got back from New York playing The Super Bowl of Hard Core with HTO, Negative Approach and a bunch our favorite NY bands. Our management is Stone City Management out of New York. Our manager used to play for 25 to Life so he's known that scene since the dawn of New York hardcore. Freddy from Madball puts on that show every year and this year we were lucky enough to sneak on. He's heard our music and he knows what we're about. I think we were the only Canadian band ever to play let alone from the West Coast. So it was a pretty big honor to be accepted by that crowd.

AU – This is the first show of your Canadian tour right?

Cam – Yea and it's also our first show with our new bass player Don. He's from Edmonton from a band called Vying For Solace.

AU - Vancouver's had a long history of talented Hard Core bands and you've been a part of it for years. What's you're take on it yesterday and today?

CAM – I started in the Metal scene. In the early 90's there was a lot more Grind Core and just straight-up Punk Rock. There were bands like BNU and Strain...Burden. Those were the guys that really started playing just straight-edge and hardcore gigs where it was not in a bar. It was all-ages and it was all about the music. Vancouver's music scene goes up and down. The people I've been around like Byron and Jed and the Strapping guys, they're all still part of the scene. You still see'em at the shows. But there's always new bands popping up like Sound of the Swarm,

Daggermouth, Rise in the Fall...

AU – It's not easy to keep bands together and you've got members in 2 different provinces. Is everyone down for the long-haul with touring and recording for the next 4 or 5 years?

Don – Well, yea. We've been involved in this thing for years. Not a lot of people are going to up-root their lives and live in a van and tour and not make any money. It doesn't always go like that but there's the odd time when shit gets really tough. When you're a band at our level throw comfort right out the fucking window. It ain't like that. You start to think, I'm 25 and Cam's 34...we're in the same fucking boat here. He's been doing it for God knows how long. This isn't about us saying “We're in a band, this is cool” – this is about what we love to do. This is who we are. That's why we're still going. That's why we paid for that van outside. That's why we have the trailer attached to it.

AU - So when do you start hunting for a label to help with some of this?

Cam – Well, you've always got to be ready to do it yourself but when we come across a label that's interested and is going to promote us the way we should be promoted, we'll jump in with both feet. But until then it's up to us. Whether there's a label or not, we're still going to be playing.

Part 2 – Late August or Early September.

AU – So how many interviews have you done here at The Cambie?

Cam – I think this is the second one. I can't remember what it was for but I know I did one here before.

AU – The last time we did this you were playing the first show of a huge Canadian tour – how did it go?

Cam – The tour went really good. We ended up signing the papers for this digital distribution deal with Distort Entertainment. They also have Alexisonfire and The Cancer Bats signed. So we ended up getting those signed and dropped off half way through the July portion of the tour. All summer was pretty cool. We made it out to Toronto and back. Unfortunately though, we had to come back cause one of our friends passed away in a motorcycle accident. So we canceled a few shows and came home for about a week and then started again with a big package tour with a couple of bands from the states...Misery Signals, The Human Abstract

and Shai Halud, the legendary hardcore band from New York. So it was all really cool. We made a lot of friends. Then we went all the way to Halifax on the second portion of the tour. It was 56 shows in total. A lot of driving.

AU – Is this the longest tour for you guys so far?

Cam – Yea. In the 5 years we've been together this is definitely the longest tour we've done. So we're going to take some time off. We're getting our artwork together for the digital release of our record done hopefully by October/ November.

AU – Tell me about the record and who you worked with.

Cam – We did 10 songs with Devin Townsend about a year and a half ago and we were just shopping that. We released a five-song sample and we toured the hell out of that. So now it's time to put the whole record out now and tour.

AU – Did you have the connection with Distort before you began the tour?

Cam – No.

AU - So what were you going do with the recording?

Cam – Our intentions were to get it distributed more than anything. More than a full-on record deal and all that. It would have been nice but our plan was to just get it to the people, as many as possible, through the people we know... record labels, managers etc...just flog it off the stage, sending it out to whoever we could. Street level distribution. But with the Distort thing, the guy who runs the label, Greg Bellow, he actually approached us. He gave our drummer Junior a call and he said he really liked the music and he wanted to sign us then and there. We weren't quite ready to make that step at that point so we kept in contact with him. Now he's contacted us again with this digital idea. It's really cool because there's no risk for any of the parties involved. He doesn't have to stick a bunch of money into us and we don't have to pay him back anything. Basically itunes takes their chunk, he takes his. He was telling us, cause nobody wants to buy CD's anymore, people are just buying it all on-line and it's accounting for 30% of the entire market. I know 604 Records just started doing it too. It's cool cause you just go to their website, you click on it to check it out, listen to a few samples and then you're only a step away from buying the whole record. It's only \$9.99 for every record on there. So you're not going to HMV and paying fucking \$27.00 for a Madball disc or whatever. This way the musician is taking most of the sale - which is the way it should be. We're the guys out there struggling, touring around with next to nothing, having to fix gear with our own money, not really having anything solid financially to go on. Hopefully this will lead to something but for now this is perfect for us.

AU - The Vancouver music scene has supported you and your various bands for years – how important is that to you?

Cam – The Vancouver scene has always been important to me. I've been in a few bands. I started out with a band called Process. In the early 90's I was in this sort of Rap-Metal project for around five years with a lot of my good friends – Sean who was actually in Savannah was part of that too - called Minority. I was in Punchdrunk with big Gene from Strapping Young Lad and now I'm doing this. The unfortunate thing I find about the Vancouver Hard Core scene – I'd like to call it the All-ages scene – is that it really hard here. In the outer cities kids seem to be more into it. Like in Langley or even Surrey or Burnaby for that matter. Vancouver has always been a harder place to do the all-ages scene because there's just no venues. They're very far a few between. One will pop up and then it'll get shut down and the kids have to look for another one. So for the fans that we have in that scene it's great. I see a lot of the same kids at all the shows. So they're definitely trying to support their scene. As far as the bar scene goes, 19 and up, which is where I've always been more involved in, it's always been good here. The only problem is the lack of venues. But you know metal fans are metal fans and once you're in a good metal band, a metal fan will stay loyal to you till their dying fucking days. It's really important to me. Not just in Vancouver but the whole of Canada.

AU – Any closing comments?

Cam – Yea, I'd like to say hey to all my homeboys in the Triple C's and give a shout-out to our friend Little Chris who passed away recently. We had a big wake here for him at the end of July and we had a lot of friends and family show up. He was a good friend of ours. He was at all the shows all the time and he'll be sadly missed.

Find Savannah at www.distortent.com





“musicianship can be over-rated”

10,000 marbles [guitar]

interview by: pauly hXc & Jimmy Vertigo

“Vibrations and hums the quantum sum where we’re from felt in strings spread in rings spinning clouds eve Atom

Particle dust to dust clung now balls of fire conspire Stars spit the molecules lit panspermigration comets

Sui genus in space amino acids in place Cooling planets await fate until life shows its face Double helix the code from which flowed the chromosome

Left hand supports life to divide and provide “

The above taken from their most recent blog, it quite sums up what this band from Toronto are all about. Consisting of 5 full-time members: 10,000 Marbles on guitar, Pink Eyes on vocals, Mustard Gas on Bass, Concentration Camp on guitars & Guinea Beat on drums. Fake names, Alter egos, Cryptic verse, Punishing music and Controversy abound, We got the chance to get and email interview done w/ 10, 000 Marbles and got the lowdown on what they have up their sleeves & what they may, or may not want you to know.

AU: Mind letting us in on what the band is up to right now in regards to touring/ recording?

10,000Marbles: We’re working on our next LP, “The Chemistry of Common Life”, which was the title of a book on mushrooms from around the turn of the century. We’re recording it in December and it will be released in some form I think in May. Also we’re working on a split 12” with the Besnard Lakes, a cool psych band from Montreal, and starting the Year of the Rat 12”. Year of the Pig is coming out on CD in the winter as well, with a bunch of bonus stuff with it. And we’re releasing 2 Year of the Pig 7”s. One for the UK and one for North America. As well as the 3rd volume of the mixtape series. People are also doing some solo stuff as well - Beat just put out his “Mad Men” tape, Pink Eyes has Millennial Reign going and I’m doing some solo guitar stuff called Corona.

We’re doing 14 shows in the UK in February with Gallows, and then we’re gonna do some full touring in May and through the summer - EU/US/UK/Japan. I think thats it for right now? Also working on some sort of DVD.

AU: Care to elaborate on the allusions to mind control by the band over the years?

10KM: Well that was something we were interested in for a while 2 or 3 years ago

I guess. Part of it was just prank-style like we were interested in presenting that our records could control peoples minds, using sigils and deliberately repeating riffs in songs, but it was sort of just this cavalier attempt that we could have gone a lot further with, but always ran out of energy and time. I also think it’s important for bands to hold a certain amount of contempt for your fans, and being into mind control is a fun way of playing around withthat. On another level it was one of those “message” things - like when we put out those first few 7”s we felt this hard devotion-style following from some people and got like crazy press from zines and shit, and a lot of the mind control stuff was reaction to that, like appreciating the attention but also being really weirded out by it, there is a funny quote from Mustard where she’s asking someone during an interview why anyone would like the band. So it was this joke thing we played around with for a while but at the same time it was us trying to say to people like watch out, keep your distance from us, or like anything, don’t devote yourself to hard to anything or you could get burned. And then trying to do exactly that by putting out bullshit records and having people want to scratch off the tattoos they’d gotten 6 months ago.

AU: You seem to strive to keep the band at arms length, so to speak, to the general public. A recent step was releasing an 8-track tape, as well as extremely limited pressings, even mixtapes...

10KM: Well I mean all that stuff is circumstantial. It isn’t like we’re having meetings trying to figure out how to alienate people - someone will just approach you and be like “hey I can print out 100 8 tracks I have sitting in my basement” or something, and why not do it. The mixtapes are supposed to serve the exact opposite purpose, I put those together specifically to give the band a bit more transparency. When the first one came out we had all these serious records out so I tried to make it as silly and fun as I could. I do understand what you are saying though. To a certain extent none of us wants to admit that we’re doing a band that is basically full time and takes up most of our free time, we all just want to say we’re just in a band for kicks and are all super-detached. So its like we have these fake names and put up all these fronts and facades, its not only to keep the band at arms length from every one else, but also from each other.

AU: Who are some of the musicians/ people who have inspired you?

10KM: Well I think only Beat would consider himself a musician. Gulag never even owned a guitar until a year or two ago, and still has

never used his own amp at a FU show. I was also influenced by strictly non-musicians, people who used bands, or other media, to get at something else, just using entertainment to drive home some other agenda. And thats one of the great things about punk, because that tendency is basically the governing force behind being a punk band - no one is really in a punk band to make music, it’s all part of pushing forward the lifestyle. Its the whole immediate medium-is-the-message trip where these bands are becoming messages in real time. I mean initially thats where we took our influence from - the Sex Pistols, the Germs - these shitheads that wound up in bands because it was the easiest way to slink into the culture, not because they wanted great musical fame. That’s another great thing about punk, it can be so anti-music, so while you’re listening to a record it’s almost this inside joke you are part of because obviously the music is often great, but there can be this whole other level to it.

AU: An element which draws the listener’s attention are the musical interludes and subtle touches of violin, organ, whistling, etc. Are these parts conceptualized when the songs are written/rehearsed, or final touches in the studio to add flavor to the songs?

10KM: Yeah they are usually final touches, I think most of the interesting stuff that makes it onto a FU record is done on the spot in the studio. Even more so with Owen’s violin parts.

He came into the studio and recorded his parts after hearing the songs for the first time that minute. We told him we wanted him to write interludes that connected each song, and he quickly wrote some notes down in a book and then I guess made up these 7 part pieces in his brain right then and recorded them. We never try to add

music bits for its own sake, they always have to make sense in the context of the song. The whistling, the organ, etc, we put them in because primarily we thought they would sound nice to listen to. Especially with Hidden World - who wants to listen to 70 minutes of straight distortion? Other than creeps.

AU: The band seems to excel at keeping a raw, live sound on your recordings without losing any sense of musicianship or cohesiveness. What’s your opinion on the Pro Tools generation?

10KM: We have actually used pro-tools in every recording except “Police”, where we recorded onto 2-inch tape. I’m into technology, in our case it just makes things easier. We try to do whats practical. Year of the Pig used almost 70 tracks, and trying to mix that straight on a board would have been almost impossible on one hand, but also would have cost us hundreds of dollars in extra studio time. I mean these are all tools, it’s just how you use them.

For us in the studio it’s mostly about setting up the right gear and pilling it on. For the two cover 7”s we did, we mixed in pro-tools and then put it through a super old 4 track to master it, then used that cassette to dump onto a dat. It’s different every time. I mean we just want things to sound loud. We fucked around with Hidden World on pro-tools for hours and hours trying out different things. If you have sick speakers, there are definitely parts of that record that will hurt your head because the bass drum and extra drum tracks have been compressed so much its like the rest of the sound gets sucked into the drums. We aren’t idealists in the studio, we just want to have fun and try lots of different things out.

lookingforgold.blogspot.com



A BUCKET OF BAVA

Hold the tomato sauce, drown that spaghetti in BLOOD

by Ryan 'Groin to Gullet' Dyer

To the "Maestro of The Macabre", making films was like being a magician, to solve a problem and to create a trick or illusion out of nothing at all. Each has a cloud of atmosphere that engulfs the actors and setting like The Blob would a flock of seagulls. Vivid coloring, clouds of fog, ruined villages and unblinking ghosts of abrasion move within the canvases of film Mario Bava paints. He had a knack for coming out with a surprise ending, which brought with it a diversion of mood. Bava's work brought about the realization that one could be playful when dealing with death and torture. This sort of bravado would give a fun house twist to the shocking tale on screen, like a mirror at the end of the horror house, scaring you with your own reflection. I will now be scraping the bottom of the bucket of Bava to give you his boldest, bloodiest, and best...

BLACK SUNDAY - 1960

STARE INTO THESE EYES... discover deep within them the unspeakable terrifying secret of BLACK SUNDAY... it will paralyze you with fright! Thus spoke the tag line for Black Sunday, one of the most effectively powerfully play-like tales of scornful satanism I have seen. Barbara Steele is absolute magic, very driven and relentlessly evil. Her voice is like ice, molasses thick in wickedness. Just listening to it makes you want to go to church to confess something. The film opens with the brutal execution of Princess Asa Vajda (Steele) via mask of death, showing you right away like a first big splash on a bloody log ride what this film is about. She is then resurrected when the blood of a doctor is spilled on her corpse by accident (did Clive Barker watch this?) and from then on all hell can't stop her now. What can I say? If horror films were dope, this would be BC brand and smoked through a vaporizer.

BLACK SABBATH - 1963

Being the namesake of the world's first heavy metal band, you'd expect Black Sabbath to be better than the average horror movie. It is more than that, at times it is downright terrifying. It is a trilogy of stories, originally entitled The Three Faces Of Fear hosted by Boris Karloff. Aside from introducing the program, Karloff makes an appearance in the stories as well. This series creates the levy that later anthologies like Creepshow or Two Evil Eyes would fill but not yet break. "Drop Of Water" has a corpse seeking revenge on the nurse who ripped off her ring, "The Telephone" has a woman receiving threatening phonecalls from a man, only to find out he's a former client of hers, but one who won't be making another appointment in this lifetime.. "The Wurdulak" has Karloff forsaken to feed off the blood of his closest kin. Not since the far side of the bedpost of the crippled sister in Pet Semetary have I been so spooked by a simple character as shown in "The Wurdulak". The horror in this film has so saturated the air it could make your pores ooze black.



PLANET OF THE VAMPIRES - 1965

Predating Alien by a decade and a half, this film would actually be one of the major influences on the Ridley Scott horror/sci-fi classic. Two spaceships are sent on a mission to investigate the enigmatic planet Aura. Once there the crew of the first spaceship arrives, a plague of



berserk symptoms falls upon the crew, causing them to destroy another. Unbeknown to them, it is an alien race of formless entities that is infesting within the crew members in an attempt to escape their fruitless satellite. Planet Of The Vampires' depiction of the crew, spaceship and planet is abstract, but not to the point of Caligari, and high tech, but not anything with more augustness than Star Trek. It is extraordinarily basic, though dense and groundbreaking in its figurization of brooding space horror. The costuming and coloring being deep purple and blue, combined with the stillness of the spaceship gave me a sense of distress and eerie dislocation throughout. In space, no one can sense your dread.

KILL, BABY, KILL - 1966

The curse of Villa Graps holds a white knuckle death grip on a small Transylvanian village. An investigator comes into town to investigate an impalement of a young girl, hoping to flesh out the mystery that keeps the townspeople in a trance of timidity. A dead little girl is out there playing hide the soul with the scared shitless inhabitants, and there is no prejudice for who she kills, baby kills. The title being the worst thing about the movie, it provides an unsettling apparitional horror layout for countless other directors to take from. Most notable are some scenes in Suspiria, which seems to take a lot from the extravagant deaths in Kill, Baby, Kill. Bava uses a crumbled gothic architecture for his setting, the town looks as if it has been burned to a crisp and re inhabited. Bava cinches horrific imagery, and uses the script as a foreboding backdrop to it. Out of all of Bava's movies which have been ignored or discredited, I think Kill deserves a watch the most, it could sway any pussyfooting individual (and I've known some) over to the world of Bava.



BAY OF BLOOD - 1971

Some parts of Bay Of Blood may look oddly familiar. Have you've seen people get stalked at a lake on a campsite, and then get a butcher knife stuck in the cheek muscles of their face? Or a couple making love only to get shish-kabobed together with a spear? Yeah the first two Friday The 13ths owe a little to Bay Of Blood, or if you will, the much cooler title of Twitch Of The Death Nerve. Bava gives a no-holds barred gorefest with drawn out domino-effect murders without a discernible killer, besides consequence culminated from the visitors to the Bay's own greedy intent on the subject of the it's economical future. The kills are sudden and jolting, the girls are hot and barely clothed, and the ending is a true WTF moment. You'll also see the most reliable way I've seen to kill a wheelchair bound person. This film was also marketed as Last House On The Left 2, which is funny because it predates that movie by a few years, and has nothing in common with it. Most of the scenes in this film have become cliches' now, but this is one of the first to pioneer them.

BARON BLOOD - 1972

This is a ghost story about a sadistic Baron brought back from the dead to haunt and kill new victims making home of his former castle. He is brought back to life via magic words looking like the Creeper from Jeepers Creepers and starts picking up on his old habits; putting people in Iron Maidens, sticking them on flagpoles outside the castle, agonizing them in the basement's torture chamber. This film is like The Picture Of Dorian Gray in reverse - the Baron starts out ugly, and begins to look as youthful as the movie progresses. At times it almost does feel like a Hammer movie or even the 80's Nosferatu. Like Kill, Baby, Kill, it has a few skin tightening scenes such as blood seeping out from under a door and the whole summoning of the Baron buildup. It is a thickly atmospheric, murderous

glide with a strike of ironic civilian justice at the end over a cruel and undying dictator.

RABID DOGS - 1974

Rabid Dogs would be Bava's most exploitive and cruel movie. It follows the trail of three thieves who after leaving a bloody trail of carnage after a foiled bank robbery, abduct a woman, man and deathly ill small child and attempt to book it across the border. The man begs to just let him take the child to the hospital, but like any proper gang of ruthless abandon, they turn the old fart down; the sun beats down, tempers flare, liquor bottles are opened and we've got ourselves Last House On The Left on wheels (including a 'piss for me' scene, even). As it is known in films like this, never underestimate the contempt from those who seem neutrally stoic under pressure. Not to ruin anything, but they may have a more malicious intention than those who seemed most disgraceful in the first half of the film. Also known as Kidnapped, filming was abandoned after the cinematographer died unexpectedly. It was recut under the said name with new scenes directed by Bava's son Lamberto (who also went on to direct the cult classic Demons), but doesn't reach the same unwashed, flea ridden itch of Dogs.

LISA AND THE DEVIL/ HOUSE OF EXORCISMS - 1973

After the release and failure of Lisa and The Devil, the producers thought to cash in on the success of The Exorcist by filming new scenes, creating an exorcism storyline and releasing it under a different name, House Of Exorcisms. The exorcism scenes attempt to make sense and tie together the parts of Lisa And The Devil which intermingle in House, like by explaining that it was the possession of the house in Lisa



which steered the character's fates and caused Lisa to become possessed in the re-shoots of House. It's basically a bad Exorcist remake; you get the possessed girl with the good reverend trying to dispel the demons within her while she cusses and tries to tempt him by morphing into young naked items. There's pea soup, Dick Gracon like acrobatics, and strangely enough.. frogs and other amphibians coming out of her mouth. I also found it weird that the devil in this movie has a mole on the same place on his cheek as I do. Lisa And The Devil itself is greenhouse thick in atmosphere, and much less buoyant in storyline. Disjointed funeral mannequins are shown of the recently departed or soon to be, suggesting our puppet like purpose to the powers of darkness. Is everyone really alive or is it just Lisa And The Devil alone together with spirits overlooking and entertaining an involvement in their earthly affair?

SHOCK - 1977

Bava's last full length movie before his death in 1980 is like an exploitation version of Poltergeist. Incidentally, it was the first Bava movie I watched, renting it only because it was by Blue Underground who have a reputation for putting out the foody goody nasties. I was impressed enough by the malpractice of the hauntings and cerebral meltdown of the characters to watch it a few times over. Now knowing it was Bava's last hurrah, we can only imagine where he would go from here into the 80's. There was much improvement in makeup and special effects in the years after his heart attack, but like any classic magician, his tricks are still remembered from a time where it may have seemed too far gone a task to ignite an audience without any computer generated matches. A good end to a storied carrer.



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XXX-MASS MURDER

by Grimm Culhane & E.S. Day

Currently celebrating their 25th year in existence, Metal Blade Records' Founder/ CEO Brian Slagel; has set the standard for Heavy Metal's mainstay in the public's eye. One of the label's signature acts (and celebrating 20 years) is Death Metal icons – Cannibal Corpse.

Read on, as Grimm Culhane and E.S. Day hold hands while fearing for their lives as they board the tour bus of Cannibal Corpse for a 30 minute sermon from the master of lyrical macabre, George "Corpsegrinder" Fischer.

Grimm: So we're here with the "Corpsegrinder".

George "Corpsegrinder" Fisher: Yep.

Grimm: Cannibal Corpse is in town tonight, welcome back to Vancouver.

GCF: Cool, I appreciate it, good to be back.

Grimm: How many times have you been here? Too many times?

GCF: No, never too many, its always a pleasure.

E.S.Day: Not enough.

GCF: Yeah

E.S.Day: George of Cannibal Corpse, it is the 25th year of Metal Blade, your memories growing up, first metal Blade album bought, and then I'm gonna fucking nail you on some Metal Blade trivia from Metal Massacre... old school.

GCF: I'll fail miserably.

E.S.Day: Aw shit don't tell me that,

GCF: I probably will.

E.S.Day: Alright, I'll do some easy ones and we'll fuck around and see if the...

GCF: I'll fail; I spin my head to much.

(Laughter)

GCF: I really don't remember the first album I bought from Metal Blade... (thinking)

E.S.Day: Old Lizzy Borden maybe...?

GCF: Oh I mean I had Slayer albums so right there, that's all I really need to say.

E.S.Day: Yeah, no doubt. "Show No Mercy" I guess?

GCF: That was right there (gesturing high with his hand). That was most probably one of the first ones I bought. You can put it down as that anyway because I'd buy records from every damn company, any kind of metal record, I was buying stuff from independent labels when I saw a cover. Obviously I knew who Slayer were.

E.S.Day: Yeah, and they were expensive back then too. Remember that? (laughs)

GCF: Yeah, but I mean hey, CDs are pretty expensive.

E.S.Day: That's true.

GCF: Back at home where you get

them that's how it goes, but I would pay any kind of fucking money for any CD or record, if I wanted it and had the money I'd fucking buy it no matter how much it cost.

E.S.Day: Me too. Back then it was also about not just music, but the cover and the fucking liner notes.

GCF: When I was learning to sing death metal, or just not even learning just doing it in my room for the fuck of it, I would sit in my room and all the albums would have the sheet lyrics with them...

E.S.Day: And the gatefold ones too.

GCF: The gatefold ones I hated because I couldn't tack them on my wall.
(Laughter)

GCF: I would pull the album out, put it on, take the lyrics sheet and tack it onto my wall and I would sit in front of it and do that (raises his hand in a claw-like gesture).
(Laughter)

GCF: I had this piece of wood I used as a guitar and I would just sing songs. At the time I wasn't thinking about being in a band. Man I was just like I'd get up in the morning and start singing, my mother would be "what the hell are you doing?"
(Laughter)

GCF: Whatever, but that's how I learned how to sing. All my old vinyl, you can see the inserts where the records go into, you can see little tack marks.

E.S.Day: Yeah

GCF: I would buy albums if it was a band I never heard of and they had a sick ass album cover.

E.S.Day: How about this for a fucking hard tack on the wall, how 'bout that Possessed album "Seven Gates", no it wasn't "Seven Gates"...

GCF: No its called "Beyond the Gates"

E.S.Day: That's it, thank you. Fuck I'm outta my mind. No I mean literally I'm outta my mind.

GCF: Yeah that one had the big foldout.

E.S.Day: Like fucking eight times or something. (laughs)

GCF: There were times I would actually write lyrics down on paper if I wanted them. I think Violence – Eternal Nightmare had the lyrics on the back of the record so I couldn't tack the whole record up there.
(Laughter)

GCF: So I would sit and read the lyrics and then I just got fucking lazy and tack them on the wall or read them in a book. I would tack them on the wall and my mother was just like... (sighs, frowns and

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Year in Review – 2007

What the Hell happened...???

Specially selected for this because they were either one of our most loved writers or else a local celebrity of some standing in the community (yeah right). In the spirit of the season get to know them a little better... if you dare!!!



Ira Hunter (Editor-In-Grief):
I am the Champion of Hell responsible for this soul sucking magazine and the director of the cult short film Corpus Delicti: The Passion of Zombie Jesus. (Youtube "Zombie Jesus" to check it out – It's my way of saying Merry Christmas to the World!)

Favorite Local Band(s) that everyone should know about: Keg Killers, Golgotha, AK-47, Sweathogz, Black Flab, L.I.D., Alcoholic White Trash, The Banned, Switchblade Valentines, The Beaumonts, The Rebel Spell, Self Inflicted, The Hoosegow, Grey Army, Enchanted Faeries, The Remanes, Die Poor, Blood Nasty, The Shivs and Lesbian Fist Magnet. What?! I like them all ok?!!! And you should too!!!

Best Punk Album of the Year:
Wednesday Night Heroes – Guilty Pleasures

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:
I miss the Cro-Mags... Actually I think locals Laying Waste gave me a cd at a gig once, that was killer hardcore, it was called High Noon.

Best Metal Album of the Year:
3 Inches of Blood – Fire Up The Blades

Best Live Show(s) of the Year:
Too many shows to really remember but off the top of my head I'd say The Dwarves @ the Plaza in Van... Three Inches of Blood in Seattle... Turbonegro @ the Commodore... Riverboat Gamblers in Texas... Slayer in Vegas... The Rebel Spell anywhere... and Cauldron at the Cobalt.

Best Movie of the Year:
300 (most manly movie of all time)

Best Horror Movie of the Year
Brian Clement's Lovecraft inspired film entitled Dark Paradox (This really was

his best film to date. I play a cop with a tommy gun who suffers a supernatural death. Remember people, tentacles are good!)

Best new band(s) destroying your scene.
Lesbian Fist Magnet (Vic) Deadrider Wasteland (Van)

Best Event/Party of the Year:
Zombie Walk Victoria. Over 300 flesh-eaters stormed the mall, scared Japanese tourists on Government street, and finished by descending on the Parliament buildings.

Shock of the Year:
Absolute Underground is still around and I haven't died of a heart attack yet.

Douche(s) of the Year:
The ass-wipe who ripped off Wendy 13 and the Cobalt and whoever stole Jay Brown's framed photo from Logan's Pub. That shit better be put back up the next time I go there or else I'll have to go ninja on somebody, punk!



Demonika, Im best known for putting on debauchorous underground variety shows and help out with some of the behind the scenes stuff with the mag. Mothers hide your eyes!! Virgins run and hide!

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:
Divinity, Exit Strategy, Dark Forest, scorched Banditos, Ost Est Ima and Power of Murder.

Best Punk Album of the Year:
I dont like punk enough to pick the best of this year.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:
Despised Icon - The Ills of Modern Man or As I Lay Dying - An Ocean Between Us

Best Metal Album of the Year:

Paradise Lost - In Requiem or Behemoth - The Apostasy

Best Live show of the Year:
Sounds Of The Underground at Crack Hall. I hate the nazi 25 minute schedule, but I love the bands.

Best Movie of the Year:
Pans Labyrinth

Best Horror Movie of the Year:
Havent seen one this year that deserves that title.

Best New Band destroying your scene:
Job For A Cowboy

Best Event/Party of the Year:
Demonika's Symphony Of Horrors 2 : A Canada Day Carnival!

Shock of the Year:
That those Emo kids in the skin-tight-cut-of-blood-flow pants and swoopy hair are actually boys... not girls.

Douche of the Year:
Anyone responsible for procreating the high wasted thick belt fad.

Dustin Jak (Keg Killers/Rent Snorter):
Dustin, I peed downtown a few fuckin' times.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:
My Band, Fuckers!

Best Punk Album of the Year:
Deep Eynde - Bad Blood

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:
The New Agnostic Front

Best Metal Album of the Year:
WOLF-the Black Flame

Best Live Show of the Year:
Jaks Party @ Lodge In Ucluelet

Best Movie of the Year:
Last King of Scotland

Best Horror Movie of the Year:
Touristas

Best New Band destroying your scene:
Lesbian Fist Magnet (ha ha)

Best Event/Party of the Year:
Junkies getting evicted from Cormorant St!

Shock of the Year:
My twins getting into the SPICE GIRLS

Douche of the Year:
Jay Brown for dying on me!

Chris Walter (Writer/Tough Guy):
My name is Chris Walter, and I'm best known as "that guy who shoots three-foot flames from his asshole." I also write books that burn remarkably well.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: The Rebel Spell.

Best Punk Album of the Year:
Cock Sparrer -- Here We Stand. And don't tell me it's Oil, fuckface.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:
Wednesday Night Heroes -- Guilty Pleasures. And don't tell me it's punk, buttmunch.

Best Metal Album of the

Year:
Metal? How the fuck would I know?

Best Live Show of the Year:
Turbonegro @ the Commodore.

Best Movie of the Year:
A Clockwork Orange. Wait, that was last year...

Best Horror Movie of the Year:
28 Weeks Later.

Best New Band destroying your scene:
The Pogs.

Best Event/Party of the Year:
That shit I took last week. You shoulda seen it.

Shock of the Year:
Britney Spears shaved her head and was seen flaunting a Templars T-shirt and 32 hole cherry Docs? OMG!



Douche of the Year:
Stephen Harper. He wants to build more prisons to lock up potheads? Fuck that.

Brian Clement (Victoria Movie Director):
I make low-budget horror and sci-fi movies.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:
Vile Style

Best Live show of the Year:
The Answer playing their last show ever at Rainfest in Seattle this summer.

Best Movie of the Year:
Grindhouse (in the theatre)

Best Event/Party of the Year:
Dark Paradox preview screening in October.

Shock of the Year:
That Meat Market 3 was actually out on DVD in time for the DVD release party.

You'll want to shake hands with Ahnabith Gish, Ost Est Ima, Divinity, Scorched Banditos, Exit Strategy and lately Nasquam Esse

Best Punk Album of the Year:
Creepshow - Sell Your Soul, Gallows - Orchestra of Wolves, The Lost Tracks Of Danzig (it somewhat counts), Trashlight Vision - Alibis and Ammunition

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:
Bad Brains - Build a Nation, Despised Icon - The Ills of Modern Man, Job For A Cowboy - Genesis

Best Metal Album of the Year:
Nile - Ithyphallic, Ziltoid the Omniscient, War Of Attrition - Dying Fetus, honorable mention - Ministry - The Last Sucker

Best Live show of the Year:
Rob Zombie, Cannibal Corpse, Combichrist (it looks like I hated it in print, but they cut half my review!), Dead Jesus, Gwar the few times they came, Kataklysm, Lamb of God w' Machinehead and Gojira

Best Movie of the Year:
The Pestige

Best Horror Movie of the Year:
Die You Zombie Bastards, Fido, Wrong Turn 2, Evil Aliens, Poultrygeist, Black Sheep (not the Chris Farley movie), The Grindhouse movies and hell, I actually did enjoy 30 Days Of Night

Best New Band destroying your scene:
Beneath The Massacre from Quebec

Best Event/Party of the Year:
Demonika's Symphony of Whores 2

Shock of the Year:
King Diamond cancelling, the Benoit Tragedy, the Canadian dollar beating the American, the deaths of Kevin DuBrow, Paul Raven and Witold Kietyka (I realise as I write this that I had seen all three of these performers in the last two years, creepy..)

Douche of the Year:
Macewan Hall ballroom for turning off the cold water in the bathrooms and having no available drinking fountains so you're forced to slurp up hot water like a leather gimp or buy \$2.50 bottles! Steroids! AIDS...

Darren Ollinger – host of Project Punk on X929 (FM Calgary)

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: The Mother F**king Browns

Best Punk Album of the Year: A Wilhelm Scream - Career Suicide

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:
Vanna - Curses

Best Metal Album of the Year:
Black Dahlia Murder - Nocturnal

Best Live show of the Year:
Propagandhi at Mac Hall Ballroom

Best Movie of the Year: Grindhouse

Best Horror Movie of the Year:
Grindhouse

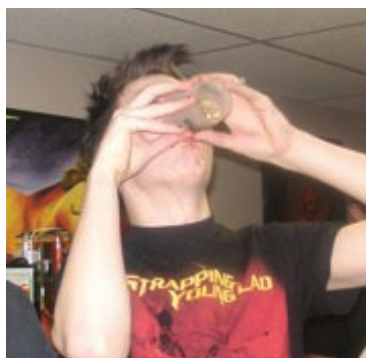
Best New Band destroying your scene:
The Colin Decker Free Fall (I heard they are amazing)

Best Event/Party of the Year: The drunken bash at my buddy Terry's basement suite after a Stamps game. Who knew "wall darts with cutlery" could be so much fun?

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Ryan Dyer, booking secret matches and cock nailing viewing sessions, jamming the VHS in to a dry musty tape player.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about:



Shock of the Year: That I'm still employed
Douche of the Year: Darren Ollinger



John Tard (Gay Beard the Pirate):
My Name is John Tard and I sing for Toronto's THE3TARDS. But I am best known for fooling legions of fans into thinking I'm actually a really cool guy... I think?... I hope?

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: In Toronto right now everybody sucks equally! For me to pick one band out of the thousands that exist would make the other bands feel even worse about themselves!! We don't want blood on our hands, now do we?

Best Punk Album of the Year: I can't get Turbonegro's Retox out of the CD player in my car...Tracks 1,5, & 10 are standouts!!!

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Not sure? Too many cores these days, I would hate to pick a band that isn't considered Hardcore and be made fun of.

Best Metal Album of the Year:
Whatever the GOLERS just released. Those Cats are deadly. And super cool dudes too. Any band that plays Evil Invaders by Razor live is A.O.K by me. Plus they jumped up on stage with the Dayglos in Toronto and played the most evil and heavy Drugged and Driving ever!!!

Best Live Show of the Year: All the ones Turbonegro played that we missed cuz we were touring. Damn you to hell you Scandinavian Bastards!!!!

Best Movie of the Year: The one with Will Ferrell figure skating with the Napoleon Dynamite dude. The spinning overhead crotch grabs were so exciting to watch in a theater environment. No triple lindy but great nonetheless. Keith Tard likes the Rear Naked Choke!!

Best Horror movie of the year:
Do people still make those? And why? Its all been done... and better!!

Best New Band destroying your scene:
Gotta be Lesbian Fist Magnet out of Victoria. We played with them twice on tour out there and they humbled us. Made us look weak, called us names, and we took it from them like the bitches we are. They were also negative influences on Fox Tard.

Best Event/Party of the Year: For me personally it was our gig in Red Deer Alberta. Quite possibly the most violent wild show we will ever play. Those Alberta boys and girls love fist fighting and being generally unruly during punk rock shows. One girl rubbed her ass up and down a brass pole the whole set. And a 10 foot high monitor fell over onto a girls back almost killing her. And they all seemed to really enjoy our Gay content.

Shock of the Year: I have 2... Le Tard surviving his birthday party with a gallon of crazy unknown Asian liquor in his gut. And learning that Biscuits and Gravy actually suck shit... Mr Plow lied to us all!!

Douche of the Year: Me for challenging Chris Walters to a fight before I knew the guy was as big as a house and as scary as Michael Myers in the first two Halloween movies!! Maybe even scarier?

I am Robyn Condon.... I slave my days away running shit at The Castle Pub.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: The Cryptomaniacs... I know they're no longer... but hot damn.

BEST ALBUM OF THE YEAR: Voodoo Glow Skulls - Southern California Street

Best Live show of the Year: Youth Brigade, Knucklehead & The Wednesday Night Heroes @ The Underground

WORST Movie of the Year: Pirates of The Caribbean 3..... it made me hate my first love.... pirates. Damn you Johnny Depp. I guess it's good to know there are crabs in purgatory....?

WORST Horror Movie of the Year:
Halloween..... Rob Zombie owes me money!

Best New Band destroying your scene:
Does that mean they are supposed to be good?? i don't get it.

Best Event/Party of the Year: Skafest... I saw Neville Staple, my pants wear wet.... 'nuff said.

Shock of the Year: That HP sauce is actually House of Parliament sauce.... who knew? and the closing of my home-work-refuge.

Douche of the Year: Jamesons Irish Pub.... those bastards.



Bubba (The guy at every show): I am Bubba. I'm known for being crippled and old. I don't own pants. I'm sweet and lovable.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: AK-47 duh...

Best Punk Album of the Year: JERK WARD "To Young To Thrash"

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: STOP AT NOTHING "Legends Never Die"

Best Metal Album of the Year: Pig Destroyer "Phantom Limb"

Best Live show of the Year: Pretty much any Bison show I saw.

Best Movie of the Year: Well I only saw 3 films this year so... I guess Blades of glory.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: I loved 30 Days of Night!

Best New Band destroying your scene: Hierophant

Best Event/Party of the Year: Far to many to list for me.

Shock of the Year: Tony Goluzia is a father!

Douche of the Year: The guy who stole the cash box from the James Bay Community Centre on Nov. 24th.



Mr Plow (acoustic pornographer): My name is Mr Plow and I am best known for singing lessons in life

Favorite Local band that everyone should know about: Mr Plow (shameless self tooting of the horn)

Best Punk Album of the Year: Municipal Waste

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: What actually is considered hardcore these days???

Best Metal Album of the Year: Dethklok

Best Live Show of the Year: Gwar at the Commodore

Best Movie of the Year: Planet Terror/Death Proof

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Planet Terror/Death Proof

Best new band destroying your scene: The Hycoprits

Best Event/Party of the Year: The one I didn't go to

Shock of the Year: The Canadian dollars value. Who knew that was coming???

Douche of the Year: Your Mom

Emily Kendy (Writer - Mainland



Mayhem): I yam who I yam. Best known for Lord only knows, depends who you ask.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Resonator, those boys can rock. Now maybe they'll be able to forgive the whole "beer spill on the sound board" accident...

Best Punk Album of the Year: The Neo Nasties CD. We've been waiting for that masterpiece almost as long as Guns N' Roses fans have been waiting for Chinese Democracy. Suckas!

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Mr. Plow for the final answer.

Best Metal Album of the Year: Shizerplunkt, they're out of Germany. They are awesome. Very Turbonegro only with sauerkraut.

Best Live Show of the Year: Rich Hope. Always amazing.

Best Movie of the Year: Hot Rod. Adam Sanberg is a tall drink of geeky water.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Hot Fuzz. I prefer movies that start with "Hot."

Best new band destroying your scene: The Manipulators. Greaser garage-rocking hip-shakers with 50s-vibe and black soul. Cute keyboardist too - we must be related!

Best Event/Party of the Year: My Pirate themed family reunion, which was in August. Arrrr, it was four nights of drunken debauchery and emotional campfire sing-alongs.

Shock of the Year: Turning 30. Ever since, I've been sobbing in the shower with a washcloth in my mouth so my roommates don't hear me.

Douche of the Year: Tom Cruise - Douche for all eternity in this universe... and beyond!

Kristin Semchuk // BDFM and Calgary Beer Core

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: The Turrettes (and BDFM)

Best Punk Album of the Year: I only listen to Hardcore Punk ;)

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Deadneck Fury - Something's Going Wrong

Best Metal Album of the Year: Slither in Exile - Death Dealer

Best Live show of the Year: Pennywise with Circle Jerks



and Ignite, was that this year?

Best Movie of the Year: 300

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Rob Zombie's Halloween

Best New Band destroying your scene: I have two, The Primitive Screwheads and The Press Gang

Best Event/Party of the Year: Calgary Beer Core Awards 2007

Shock of the Year: Ken breaking his dick

Douche of the Year: My roommate Danny Bonadouchie



Dimitri (Victoria Promoter): Dimitri from Atomique Productions.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Mexican Power Authority, because they're back!!!!

Best Punk Album of the Year: All Your Ears Can Hear double album and book! Victoria is lucky to have this!

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Bad Brains - Build A Nation - Not bad for a bunch of old psycho Rastas!!!

Best Metal Album of the Year: 3 Inches Of Blood - Fire Up The Blades - The glorious sound of villages being ransacked and torched!

Best Live show of the Year: Tom Morrillo, Perry Farrel, Wayne Kramer, Les Claypool & Slash kicking out the jams together at a small club called The Parish during SXSW!

Best Movie of the Year: Superbad

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Planet Terror

Best New Band destroying your scene?

I'm kind of more worried about amateur burlesque actually...

Best Event/Party of the Year: Excluding anything we were involved with I would say locally Ska Festival or The Big Time Out Festival.

Shock of the Year: Ira Hunter
Douche of the Year: Willy Jak

Chuck Wurley (Punk Writer/Alcoholic): I interview people. Who do you want to see interviewed this coming year?

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Breaking Point

Best Punk Album of the Year: The Switchblade Valentines- Through Flames or The Rebel Spell- Four Songs about Freedom or The Methadones-This Won't Hurt... wait, that is three, oh well.

Best Live Show of the Year: The Pogues, no wait, The Pogues, yup pretty sure it was The Pogues.

Best Movie of the Year: No Country for Old Men

Best Horror Movie of the Year: I have heard Halloween was good, I have to get out more.

Best New Band destroying your scene? Double Cuts

Best Event/Party of the Year: Hands down, it was Nightmare on Durrance, with One Drop and lots of crazy Halloween costumes, if you missed this, you suck.

Shock of the Year: I turned 30.

Douche of the Year: I don't want to have to narrow this down, there are just way too many to name.

Blag Dahlia (The Dwarves): I'm Blag the Ripper, best known for blood, coke and sodomy.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: The Will and Grace Experience

Best Punk Album of the Year: Crotch Rotterdam- Belgian Gone Go!

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: From Closet to Ecstasy- Emo Dreamo

Best Metal Album of the Year: Vomitorium- 'Pretentio'

Best Live show of the Year: Suzanne Somers- Live and in Coma

Best Movie of the Year: Fried Pink Tomatoes

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Dead Girls Who Were Bad 5

Best New Band destroying your scene: Cheaper Trick

Best Event/Party of the Year: The beating of Burmese monks in the name of national unity.

Shock of the Year: I found out that Lance Bass was a woman.

Douche of the Year: Condoleezza Rice

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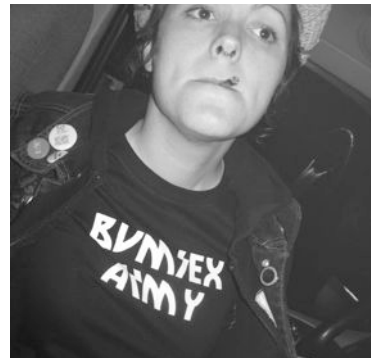
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Bumsexjen (Victoria Punk Writer/Hobosexual): I'm bumsex, I like doing interviews, but hate transcribing them.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Die Poor have recently come to my attention. I think they've got something different going on.

Best Punk Album of the Year: Gogol Bordello, Super Taranta! It's rare that I find something new that I'm super stoked on.

Best Hardcore Album of the year: I wouldn't know.

Best Metal Album of the year: See above.

Best Live Show of the Year: Ripcordz in Courtenay this summer with AWT, Rockets Away, the Hoosegow and Lesbian Fist Magnet. Also the Switchblade Valentines and Ab Irato's sets while opening up for the UK Subs @ Sugar.

Best Movie of the Year: I haven't even seen it yet because it hasn't been released in Canada but "Can't Stop, Won't Stop" based on Monster Cody Scott's book will be. I'm sure of it.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Rob Zombie's Halloween. It was awesome Micheal was SO HUGE!

Best New Band destroying your scene: Collapsing Hierarchy will be a force to be reckoned with. And I'm biased, and over exposed to it but the new Blood Nasty line up is sounding pretty awesome.

Best Event/Party of the Year: Annual Ripcordzmas was pretty awesome this year. Watching Paul buy the majority of the crowd up front at Logan's a round of rye shooters to toast the memory of Jay Brown was very touching and classy. The show was awesome and as always that time in August was the best part of my show going summer.

Shock of the Year: The same as always, that people ever thought Rob Halford was straight.

Douche of the Year: The weather.

Dave McAuley, play in Dryfisted, Dogfaced models, best known for thrashin, crashin, boozin bashin.

Fave local band is Epi-demic

Fuck this years punk , hardcore, and metal. listen to old stuff.

Best live show of the year was the Unwanted at the distillery. thought I would never get to see those guys let alone open for 'em.

Movie of the year: No Country for Old Men. go see it. kick ass.

Best Horror movie: Rob Zombie's remake of Halloween. proved his genius as a director.

There's alot of bands in Calgary destroying our scene.

I haven't been to a decent party in a coons age so I'll just say that legendary shack shakers tore Calgary a new asshole!

Shock of the Year: the death of our good friend and Dabblers front-man Chris Morin. R.I.P. brother.

Douche of the Year: Ted haggard, the evangelist busted with meth and male hookers and then denied it. what a douche. the mass media as a whole is a douche.



Ricky Jak (Victoria Skate correspondent): best known for my girlish figure.

Favorite Local band that everyone should know about: DOORWAY

Best Punk Album of the Year: ALL YOUR EARS CAN HEAR... duh

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Shooter Jennings... Hardcore Country yes?

Best Metal Album of the Year: Annihilator - Metal. Canadian hard metal workers for years!

Best Live Show of the Year: Heaven & Hell

Best Movie of the Year: 300

Best Horror Movie of the Year: 28 weeks later

Best New Band destroying your scene? Any Jaks band

Best Event/Party of the Year: JaKs Re-union 2007 Victoria/Ucluelet

Shock of the Year: JaKs Re-union 2007 Victoria/Ucluelet

Douche of the Year: JaKs Team... duh

Anita Fixx (Eastern correspondent), known for getting wasted and making ass of self? Maybe...

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: The Tranzmitors!! Yes, my mind is still in Vancouver. Don't ask.

Best Punk Album of the Year: Clorox Girls- "J'aime Les Filles" Punk as fuck! And they're not trying to be Bad Religion or NOFX! Thank gawd! Thank Lucifer! Oui! Oui!

Best Hardcore album of the year: Bad Brains- "Build a Nation" Let's face it if it wasn't for these old bands none of you bastards would be into this. None of that baseball cap, hoodie, jock shit please... it's gay. As in "stupid" gay.

Best Metal Album of the Year: Not an expert on this... though I enjoy the occasional Metal or Crust show.

Best Live Show of the Year: Trole at the Bovine Sex Club. That was pretty rockin'.

Best Movie of the Year: Super Bad

Best Horror Movie of the Year : Grindhouse (two movies, 4 fake trailers!)

Best New Band destroying your scene? Not sure if there are new bands around here worth mentioning... Some bands I like here are The 3Tards, Sinkin Ships, The MurderSquad, The Matadors (not really Tor-awna though)

Best Event/Party of the Year : Here in Tor-awna it would be the NXNE (North by Northeast) where I met Don Letts! Fuckin' awesome!

Shock of the Year: That I actually came back to Ontterrible. But no worries, as Ah-nold would say: "I'll be back! Bitches!" I added the "bitches" part.

Douche of the Year: Former roommates Katie Dickhead and Stefag



Liam Lux (Lucky Bar Manager) - the Dood at Lucky.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Fine Options! (R.I.P.)

Best Punk Album of the Year: Who you callin' a punk, punk?

Best Metal Album of the year Everything except Priestess.

Best Live Show of the Year: Toban and Lil' Steph fighting. I would pay anything to see that again.

Best Movie of the Year: The one your mama made me. She's very talented.

Best Horror movie of the year: See above.

Best New Band destroying your scene: The Killers suck and they ruin everything. Assholes.

Best Event/Party of the Year: Mon-Sat at Lucky Bar (except when it's open on Sunday)

Shock of the Year: 10,000 invisible homeless people downtown.

Douche of the Year: I promised not to talk about the last Liquor Inspector once he was 'retired'.

Mark Mor, best known for playing in several bands over the years w/ other guys who are actually musicians

Fave locals: Identity Crisis

Best punk album of the year: dunno, years not over yet

Best “hardcore” album of the year: um do you guys dig, like Sex Flag

Best live show of the year: any show by BDFM

Fave movie: Knocked Up

Fave Horror movie: 28 Weeks Later. (if wanting the show to be over ASAP b/c you are shitting yourself makes it best)

Destroying the scene: that could mean either fully ripping it up or making it real shitty.

Best Pard: Bleux part deux at Chad and Danika’s mid November

Biggest shock: when Dave dared me to piss next to a neon sign

Douche of the Year: Massingil



E.S. Day (our very own Hunter S. Thompson) Music journalist. Known for yelling at celebrities during interviews and having security remove me from media events.

Favorite Local band that everyone should know about: Ninjaspy

Best Punk Album of the Year: Angry Samoans re-issue of “Back from Samoa”

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Terror - Rhythm Amongst The Chaos

Best Metal Album of the Year: OTEP, The Ascension

Best Live Show of the Year: Lamb of God w/ Hatebreed, Behemoth and 3 Inches of Blood, Vancouver.

Best Movie of the Year: Nothing. Everything was shite

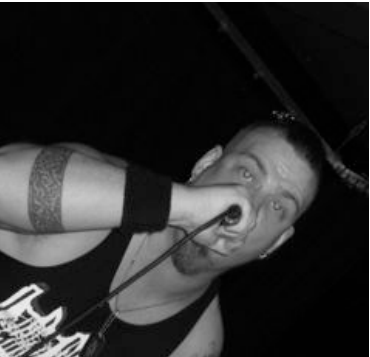
Best Horror Movie of the year: Teeth

Best New Band destroying your scene: Bison

Best Event/Party of the Year: Tie: Snoop Dogg in Chillwack/Virgin Festival Day 2

Shock of the Year: “Black Metal” Ray Wallace passing away

Douche of the Year: Nikki Sixx - For denying me an interview because I refused to talk about his new book, at his book-signing in Burnaby



Jym Wilson (Reviewer/Special Olympics): I’m sing for Laying Waste but I’m not best known.

Favourite Local Band that everyone should know about: Picking my favourite band when the scene is this good is hard. But I would have to say that I do enjoy the Sweathogz.

Best Punk Album of the Year: The best new band/ album is “Ambitions”- Stranger.

Best album is “Ben Weasel & His Iron String Quartet” - These Ones Are Bitter.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:nl feel that this was one big disappointment in the world of Hardcore; I have no true favourites. Honourable mention - “Comeback Kid”- Broadcasting, second release new singer and they pulled it off.

Best Metal Album of the Year: Dethklok- The Dethalbum

Best Live Show of the Year: Static Radio, The Loved

Ones, Strike Anywhere & The Bouncing Souls on May 7th in good old Victoria.

Best Movie of the Year: Hot Fuzz

Best Horror/Comedy of the Year: Planet Terror

Best New Band destroying your scene:Doublecuts. 2 jams before their first show. That was awesome.

Shock of the Year: Nothing is shocking when you have lost faith in humanity.

Douche of the Year: Who isn’t?



Gareth Gaudin (Magic Teeth/Legends Comics): Best known for The Perogy Cat. I’m a cartoonist n’shit.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Semi-Louise for sure. Triumphant.

Best Punk Album of the Year: Punk Punkington and the Punk Punk Twins

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: “Look At Me” by The Albacores

Best Metal Album of the Year: “Grumpy Gramps” by Spooky and the Mikes

Best Live Show of the Year: Bison and Black Mountain

Best Movie of the Year: The new Wes Anderson Picture ties with Bender’s Big Score

Best Horror Movie of the Year: I’d say “The News” but that’s too topical.

Best New Band destroying your scene? Bison

Best Event/Party of the Year: Bronwyn’s birthday kegger bash

Shock of the Year: When I thought I had my first period and then remembered I was a boy.

Douche of the Year: The part of me that let me get all my long hair cut off.

Felix Bandito- Low end deployer for Scorched Banditos

Fave local band would be toss up between Primitive Screwheads/ The Turrettes

Best punk album of oh seven would be strung out -Blackcocks over los angles

Hardcore album of 07- BDFM-here’s to few, here’s to a few more

Best live show- any of the three times i saw anthrax in 07 (you must mean 06)

Fav movie: Die you zombie bastards(no seriously...)

Best metal: Anthrax- persistence of time sixteen years running..oh yeah!

Best horror flick: haven’t seen it yet

We have a scene that needs destroying??? SMASH SMASH SMASH!

Scorched Banditos CD release on Dec 31st will be the best party of the year.

Biggest shock: taking a shower in the summer and whilst cleansing my under carriage i realised my other testicle finally dropped(i’m 34!)

Douche of the year: The guy responsible for the demise of six pack jacket.(r.i.p)

Erik Lindholm (Metal Maniac): Hey, I’m Erik. I’m best known for taking notes at death metal gigs, drinking obscure beers, talking to you randomly, enjoying life and writing for this magazine.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Switchblade Valentines. They play good-time rock and roll with great energy.

Best Punk Album of the Year: No favorites yet. Predicting good things from the new Hank III/Assjack record, Damn Right, Rebel Proud.

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: Madball - Infiltrate The System. Gotta love the gang vocals.

Best Metal Album of the Year: Minsk - The Ritual Fires Of Abandonment. Amazing!

Best Live Show of the Year: ZZ Top with Brian Setzer and The Stray Cats and The Pretenders at GM Place

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DECEMBER

Sat 1- TARTAN HEARTS w/ The Frodo Gang & Ground Up

Fri 7 - THE DABBERS FINAL FAREWELL (Feat. Chris Sublim) w/ The Turrettes, Ground Up, Deandra, Primitive Screwheads

ALL proceeds to MAMA DABBER.

THURS 13 - THE MEANS w/ I Hate Barry

Fri 14 - BAD SANTA PARTY! feat. SCORCHED BANDITOS w/ Death Ray

Sat 15 - XENYUS CD RELEASE w/ Atomic Glock & Bratado

Fri 21 - SEVERU RECORDS XMAS PARTY! w/ Room Hazard Gang, Mortified, Imperial.

Sat 22 - BUDDY WISER & THE ITS w/ Rigamortisland & guests

Sat 28 - FAREWELL TO XMAS, HITCHHIK! feat. SUTHER IN FAME, Busted Pig & guests

NOV CLASS/NO CLASS NEW YEAR! BOFM & THE TURRETTES Split CD Release! Also AntiSocial Club, Deadrock Party, The Motherfuckers & Atomic Glock

JANUARY

Sat 5 - REVEREND KILL w/ Participants & guests

Fri 11 - SLASHED OUT w/ Class Action & guests

Sat 12 - HYPOPILOT w/ Hemsley & Steinholster

Fri 18th - CHIVE w/ guests

Sat 19 - FUNDRAISER FOR THE FAMILY OF CHRIS MORIS (RIP) feat. KNUCKLEHEAD, THE TURRETTES, BOFM, DRY FETTER & THE MOTHERFUCKERS

ALL proceeds to MAMA DABBER.

Fri 23 - RAYGUN COWBOYS w/ guests

Sat 24 - PG THREE w/ The Rigamortisland, Deadrock Hard & The Hell-and-backs

Yes there's more shows than this. Fuck off, I'm lazy, this layout sucks, AND I'm out for a room go to www.mspace.com/distillerycgf or, conversely, go to hell.

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Saturday Dec 14th
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The Swagthorpe
Start with the Cobra
@ Logan's Pub

REDELIVES
KICK-ASS ROCK&ROLL FROM SIBERIA
Tuesday Dec 18th
The Red Elvians, The Pine Family
@ Lucky Bar

TARD
Saturday Feb. 2nd
Tard, TBA
@ Logan's Pub

Clove & Anchor
www.myspace.com/cloveandanchor

in August. Stray Cats were full-on with a standup drummer and bassist, Pretenders put on an average show, and then the almighty ZZ Top turned a giant concrete arena into a run-down Texas roadhouse in minutes. Stage presence, enormous songs and Billy Gibbons on guitar adds up to stellar show. Very influential band, without ZZ there would have been no southern metal. Pantera, Clutch, Black Label Society – forget it.

Best Movie of the Year: No Country for Old Men. Coen Brothers strike again.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Manufactured Landscapes. Scary. It's almost preachy, yet it's not. It stands as a well-realized warning, see if it registers. The scenes on China were unreal.

Best New Band destroying your scene: Cauldron! Very rad.

Best Event/Party of the Year: The bloody Toxic Holocaust show at Logan's and afterparty with the band at nearby mystery burlesque location. Good times.

Shock of the Year: Oil hitting 95\$ and our dollar overtaking the US. Igor Cavelera leaving Sepultura to make techno?

Douche of the Year: Chris Benoit. Enough said.



Wendy13 (The straw stirring the drink): COBALT ...PURVEYOR OF HARDCORE

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: DEADRIVER WASTELAND...Wicked Viking style Heavy Metal

Best Punk Album of the Year: I haven't bought any new music in years so I cant really answer this... altho I've listened to some killer local discs... Rebel Spell comes to mind

Best Hardcore Album of the Year: See above

Best Metal Album of the Year: Would be local again... Deadriver Wasteland disc rarely leaves my cd player altho I'm digging the Bathory box set I bought, hardly considered new tho...

Best Live Show of the Year: Damn... Wolven Ancestry on a Sunday with maybe 50 people there... fuckin awesome black metal band outta Ontterrible... This is a hard one I see waaayyyy too many shows... Jay Brown's memorial was awesome also... just the love vibe in the 'Balt was incredible

Best Movie of the Year: SHARKWATER... fuckin horrific....

Best Horror Movie of the Year: I have enough horror in the bar... can't say I've seen any

Best new band destroying your scene? ...Metal... Masquerade of Silence... Punk... The Hycoprits... I believe the youth are proving that the art of music is not lost... all these kids are underage and rip it up

Best Event/Party of the Year: Getting pissed up at the 'Balt drinking 'Wicked Sluts'... any given night

Shock of the Year: Getting robbed... fucking sucked... filing taxes after 4 years... fuck I hate paperwork

Douche of the Year: Make that plural... the Australian Apple Cheeks Gang that stole Chi Pig's penis present off my till at the Cobalt... Also that fuckwad thieving opportunistic imitator bastard... you know who you are... fuck you... and fuck off!!! Repeat... repeat...



Ty Stranglehold (The Hoosegow, Black Flab): Best

known for being the yelper for The Hoosegow and for my stunning Pizza Zone ads in Absolute Underground.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: Keg Killers are it man. So many unstable forces coming together to make the best band in town.

Best Punk Album of the Year:The Subhumans - New Dark Age Parade

Best Hardcore Album of the Year:Whichever one instills the best ninja kicks and floor punches.

Best Metal Album of the Year: Don't know

Best Live show of the Year: Jerk Ward at the All Your Ears Can Hear release party. Just amazing!

Best Movie of the Year: Pray For Me (The Jason Jessee Film) - The life of one of the truest artists ever to live. Must see!

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Nothing that matches the original Texas Chainsaw Massacre (1974)

Best New Band destroying your scene: The Doublecuts! Be afraid, be very afraid!

Best Event/Party of the Year: Jay Brown's memorial party. Heavy and fun, just as he wanted.

Shock of the Year: Jay's passing. We all knew it would happen, but no one really believed it could actually happen. Still dealing with it daily.



Jeff VandenElzen, - Super Jerk and PWTorch Forum Icon. I am, the caretaker of the Absolute Underground outpost inbetween Medicine Hat and Lethbridge.

Favorite Local Band that everyone should know about: One Shot Left and also Agnus Meatplow.

Best Punk Album of the Year: Turbonegro - Retox (Cooking Vinyl)

Best Metal Album of the Year: High On Fire - Death Is This Communion (Relapse)

Best Live show of the Year: GWAR, as usual.

Best Movie of the Year: Transformers? I didn't see many movies this year so don't ask me.

Best Horror Movie of the Year: Rob Zombie's Halloween

Best New Band: Qui

Best Event/Party of the Year: Sounds of the Underground

Shock of the Year: Chris Benoit double murder suicide. That kind of caught me off guard a bit.

Douche of the Year: Nick Hogan



Uncle Anus – Dirty Bird – Absolute Underground (Toronto)

Favorite Local band that everyone should know about; Creepshow

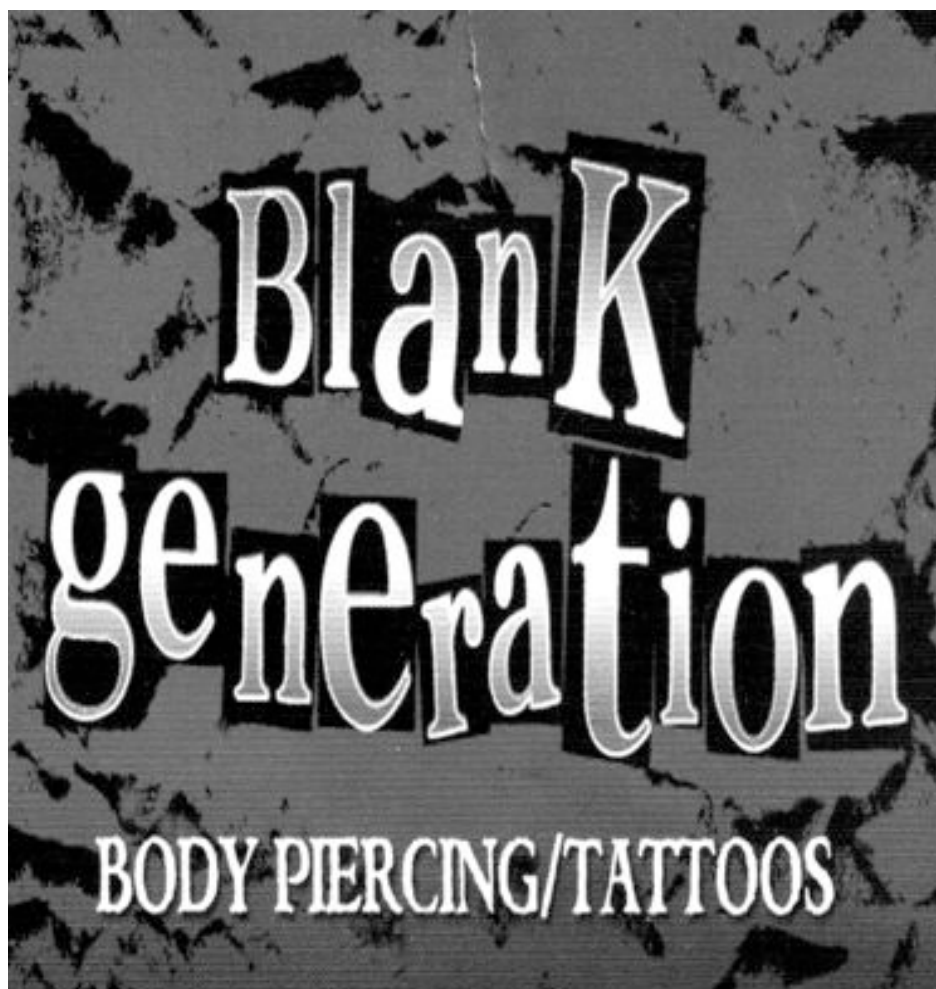
Best Hardcore album of the year; Municipal Waste, the Art of Partying

Best Live show of the Year; Gang Green

Best Horror movie of the year; 1408

Shock of the year; Dayglo Abortions without Jymbo

Douche of the year; Merrick (LummoX, Fingerbanger)



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Ghostlimb

"these are the ties that bind"

interview w/ Justin [guitars / vocals]

interview by: pauly hardcore

A 3 Piece power thrash crossover mash with a healthy serving of hyper aggressive vocals and a musical assault similar to the Warriors & This is Hell mixed with some punk rock and progressive thinking. Justin, Justin & Sati err, Justin...as they like to be called, are coming soon, Jan 7th in Victoria & 8th in Vancouver with 2 of the Justins' other band, Graf Orlock & Dangers from CA. Barring the implosion of the Earth our ears will get delightfully assaulted and hopefully left with the desire to accrue more knowledge afterwards, if these 3 severed limbs have their way.

AU: Give us the lowdown on what the band is up to these days.

Justin: Well, we are gearing up for the Jan tour up to your area, and are currently working on a four way split (with 3 bands from Germany, tentatively: Zann, Perth Express, and Trainwreck), and working also on a second "full length". I say as such because our songs are really short.

AU: Excited to come back to Victoria?

J: Yeah man, this last summer with gorlock was pretty awesome. Some people are really lazy about the ferry and stuff, but I loved it last time, and I am excited to come back with both of my bands, as well as Dangers from LA, who seem to do pretty brutal up in the Northwest.

AU: Who are you aiming at with your politically driven thrash crossover?

J: I suppose the way we write tends to be short and occasionally to the point, but referencing as much out there as possible by way of history, politics, or on the new record, cultural interaction/cartography. When you can mix a lot of things, whether it be influences musically or lyrically, it can appeal to a lot of different people who take little pieces of it and get something from it. Personally, I would most like to aim at



people who actually think about things, make connections, and try to find out what

something means, or what something is about. I realize punk and hardcore at times can be as conservative as anything else. I guess some sort of understanding of other people and general empathy is in essence politicized because it makes you inherently more liberal and tolerant of ideas around you.

AU: Who are you guys digging on right now & some must own albums?

J: I have been listening to a lot of Chuck Ragan from Hot Water Music and Tim Barry from Avail solo records, just good ass songs. And then just a lot of Born Against, can't go wrong.

AU: What motivates you guys?

J: Coming from Graf Orlock, which is obviously more conceptually based, I wanted to do something that was more melodic and actually represented the stuff I was into on more of a thinking level. I just want to put out as many good records as possible before we or the current world affairs cause something important, like the earth to implode.

AU: What other bands can we look out for from your area and abroad?

J: I would say Dangers, who has played around Canada before and are with us in Jan, those dudes rule.

AU: Whats the low down on your name?

J: Ghostlimb is from the idea that people who have a severed limb still feel it, or feel pain in it sometimes. This is coupled with the idea that an umbilical cord can act as a limb, and the funny idea that maybe everyone has something slightly wrong with them because of their missing detachment from their crappy mommies. All in all, it is pretty interesting to think about.

www.ghostlimb.org

www.myspace.com/ghostlimb



Pray For Me: The Jason Jessee Movie: DVD

It seems that there is a need for documentaries about professional skateboarders from years gone by. In the last few years there have been more than a few on the likes of Duane Peters, "Gator" Rogowski and Christian Hosoi. Usually, they center on the turmoil in the subject's life and the the ultimate careen towards rock bottom that most often ends in prison, death or despair. Pray For Me is a little different.

As a skater in the 80's I was aware of Jason Jessee but never really followed his exploits. I knew he was on Santa Cruz Skateboards and always had really cool looking boards, but that was about it. It wasn't until I saw him interviewed in "Stoked: The Rise and Fall of Gator" that I caught a glimpse of pure insane genius.



The doc begins with his childhood and an early obsession with motorbikes and guns. It's a theme that follows Jason throughout his life. In interviews with his family, it becomes apparent where his hang ups and paranoia comes from. Hi Mom! It then moves into his skating career with a large number of the greatest skaters of all time saying over and over again how Jessee was THE BEST. No one went higher and crazier and he was right on the cusp of being thrown into the limelight that was enjoyed by Hawk and Hosoi when he shattered his leg, more or less ending his pro run.

It then flows into the other facets of Jessee. During his skating years, he discovered Skrewdriver and Nazism, but quickly gave that up. Before long he was the only white person in history to join the Hispanic car club The Dukes and later still, an idol in Japan for his lowrider chopper creations.

The filmmakers do a great job of letting the story tell itself through Jason and the people around him. Words can do little to describe who he is or

what goes on in his mind. It was wise of them to let his actions speak for themselves.

You can't help but feel sad for Jessee. There is just no way for him to enjoy the moderate success that he has or the praise he gets for almost everything that he does. His insecurities won't allow him to. He just has to keep creating.

It also must be said that the film itself was made in the same manner that Jessee himself tends to operate. The co-directors had never made a film before, yet decided that Jason's story must be told so they just went for it. They re-mortgaged homes and businesses and dumped all kinds of personal money into it. I'm happy to report that it's all worth it. Jason Jessee is the definition of a true tortured artist of our time and it's time for the world to see it first hand.

www.jasonjesseemovie.com

-Ty Stranglehold

Nardwuar - Welcome to My Castle DVD

Twenty-five years of Nardwuar and to commemorate this he released his second DVD set, this is a prequel to last years "Doot Doola Doot Doo ...Doot Doo!" I had already seen most of the interviews and footage before watching "Welcome to My Castle" however it was nice to see all this stuff together and not on my scratchy VHS player. Some of the footage I had only seen portions of so it was cool to see the extended versions. As well, disc one is packed with fun and exciting Evaporators videos and disc two had extended bonus interviews. The interviews are older than the first DVD's, which was mostly his 'Much Music' stuff. What is great about early Nardwuar is that he is not just strange and ridiculous but he is also a truly guerrilla reporter, which is one of the many aspects of Nardwuar that I love. Really though just buy both DVD's cause its all Nardwuar and its all fun.

-Jym Wilson



Absolute DVD Reviews

Unholy Alliance Tour - Slayer, Lamb Of God, Mastadon, Children Of Bodom, Thine Eyes Bleed

In case you missed the Unholy Alliance tour hit up Vancouver, it was conveniently attended by videographers documenting it for this very DVD. I was one of those who missed the show, so I eagerly bought this the first day it hit the shelves. Thine Eyes Bleed are forgettable, a decent band with no memorable hooks who were thankful to being on the bill, I would be too! These type of tours seem to always have a band like Children Of Bodom, that melodic symphonic type metal that appeals to people who dress up as thief/mages, not quite wizards. I saw Slayer when they brought in In Flames, now here's a band that sounds exactly like them. Mastadon, now I really really enjoy that song "Blood and Thunder", and I pumped that fucker up when I watched this thing, but the other two tracks I found hard to get into. Lamb Of God are deemed jobber in this collection, with only one track, "Vigil" to advertise themselves. Good thing about this track is the huge circle pit, but why not show a wall of death, if it infact happened at the show? Slayer looks about ten years older due to Tom's thickening grey beard. Crimson stained sheets "South Of Heaven", "Chemical Warfare" and "Dead Skin Mask" allow new blood to splatter between them in "Cult" and "Eyes Of The Insane" and the Mengele ode "Angel Of Death" preaches old psalms to the newly perverted.

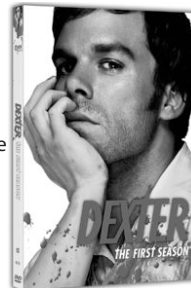
- Ryan Dyer



Dexter - The First Season

Showtime has out done themselves yet again by creating this insanely good series based on Jeff Lindsay's book, Darkly Dreaming Dexter. This 4 dvd set comes with 12 episodes of one of the most enthralling stories ever to be carried out across your screen. I am literally hooked. Dexter Morgan (played by Michael C. Hall also of Six Feet Under fame), works for the Miami Police Department as an blood spatter analyst in the forensics department. He has a geeky, plain, fly under the radar facade, however... underneath it all he is really a cold blooded killer, empty and devoid of emotion. Due to his droll wit and endearing demeanor you some how fall in love with him and find yourself laughing even at times when there are body parts cut up across your screen. His adoptive father, a cop himself, after rescuing him from the grizzly murder of his mother as just a young boy, taught him how to channel his dark side in a "positive" direction; and so, having captured these evildoers, Dex dispatches them with clinical precision, thus making him a serial killer who takes care of other killers. Earning the nickname The Dark Defender, fans love this show, I love this show. There is a carefully-crafted life of friends, family, and career at his disposal for telling his tale, Show time paints a portrait of sociopathic existence far more detailed and more disturbing than anything out there. This is one smart horror show. I don't want to go into to much detail about what happens on season one, just do yourself a favor and buy this, you wont regret it. Absolutely amazing, 25 severed thumbs up!

- Demonika



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Absolute Book Reviews

It's so good we reviewed it twice!

All Your Ears Can Hear (Underground Music in Victoria, BC 1978-1984)

By Jason Flower, Kev Smith, Rick Long

When punk rock sprung out from under its slimy rock in the late 70's, its influence was far reaching. Even in a secluded Island town in Canada, the punks would have their say. This is a colossal undertaking to say the least. The authors have pretty much turned up anything and everything that could be considered "underground music" in the city of Victoria in those early, formative years of punk rock and the d.i.y esthetic... The result is breathtaking. Flipping through the book, the first thing that grabs you is the pictures. So many photos, flyers, and setlists litter the pages. The energy jumping out at you conveys the urgency and fun that were cornerstones to the underground music scene. Then you notice that there are words scattered about around these amazing pictures. Everything is laid out band by band, with first and secondhand stories and memories. You truly feel what it was like to be a part of the action.

Now this in itself would make for a great document of the early punk rock scene in Victoria, but it's not over yet. Far from it. Included with the book is two CDs featuring over 79 minutes of (predominately unreleased) music from all of the bands included in the book! There are tracks from some of the bands that people from elsewhere may have heard of such as Nomeansno, Dayglo Abortions and The Neos, there are some that are well known in collector circles and by punk rock know-it-alls such as Infamous Scientists, Red Tide,

Jerk Ward, and House Of Commons, and there are many that have never really seen the light of day until now.

I have been a part of the Victoria punk rock scene for a long time now, and I've always taken great pride in my city and the bands that it has produced. The funny thing is that after having read this book, I've realized that I've barely scratched the surface when it comes to local punk rock history. The book and music does not only cater to someone who is from here at all. I would recommend it to anyone into punk history.

-Ty Stranglehold

www.allyouarearscanhear.com

Lost Orphans

Illustrations by Clint Danroth

I was stoked as hell to receive this spectacular tattoo art book in the mail. This is high quality documentation of a very talented artist's body of work. It features countless incredible paintings, drawings and sketches from the mind of Clint Danroth of Craftsman Tattoo Parlour in Vancouver and has everything a person could want, including, but not limited to, Pirates, Zombies, Dragons, Sexy Demon Babes, Skulls, and Flying Eyeballs.

The layout is beyond professional, and truly beautiful, with illustrated transparent tattoo

paper at the beginning and end of the book. The first portion focuses on Clint's paintings and the

last half is more about his tattoo related artwork. Airbrush, pencil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, all are explored with outstanding results. The paintings range from vibrantly perverse to the classically traditional, even the religious realm is pondered. The images are presented framed as appear to the eye as they would if hung upon a wall, similar to the back of this release where the artwork looks like it came from the tattoo shop's wall, thumbtacks and everything.

Clint definitely displays his own unique style but also shows off some of his patented Japanese stylings that he is renowned for. You can tell this project was a true labour of love, and that this artist possessed just has to stay creative. It seems Danroth works every waking moment on his art and it really pays off with this deadly offering. My favorite pieces are of a collection of female Zombie pin-ups. I am seriously considering getting one of the pieces tattooed on me, probably a hot zombie chick in a beautiful state of decomposition chewing on a tattooed torso. Exploding with originality, this is the coolest fucking tattoo book I have ever seen! No shit... it's totally wicked! www.clintdanroth.com

-Ira Hunter

The Skateboard Art of Jim Phillips By Jim Phillips

Anyone who has had anything to do with skateboarding in the 80's will instantly recognize the artwork of Jim Phillips. His cartoony monsters and gore almost define an entire era. From Screaming Hand all the way back to the earliest Santa Cruz Skateboards logo, Jim was there.

While his last book ("Surf, Skate & Rock Art of Jim Phillips"), told Jim's life story and featured all of his artistic endeavors, this volume focuses strictly on his work in the

skateboard world and collects every single piece of artwork that he ever did for a skateboard company.

It's a beautiful book, in full color. The graphics leap off the page at you. If you're at all familiar with them, you'll instantly be taken back to a time in your life when you were younger and standing at the top of a halfpipe waiting to drop in or flipping through an old issue of Thrasher only this time without your fingertips getting all black... The pictures throw you into such a nostalgic daze, that you almost forget that there is some writing there too... lots of it. There is stories behind

many famous graphics, as well as tales from the fabled Phillips Studios and first hand accounts from many of the young artists who got their start working for Jim. As much as I love all of Jim's past work, one of the best parts of this book is the inclusion of his stellar return to the skate world after so many years out of the game. He is cranking out some killer stuff and rounds out the book nicely. The is absolutely a must have for any skater, artist... hell, everyone should have this!

-Ty Stranglehold



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AT THE BUFFET

by Glen Bitters and Ty Stranglehold

MISSION: Crystal Jade, Victoria, BC.

You know that when a buffet closes down, you have to shed a tear (no matter how bad it was). Such was the case of Uncle Willy's. The theory was good, the execution was not. It finally fell, and months later a beacon of hope rose in its spot like some kind of greasy phoenix. Crystal Jade. Buffet Buddha's Glen and Ty (along with Ty's three year old daughter Sophia) decided to take the plunge and see what gives on the Northside.



Glen says: Well all I can say is if you are gonna close down an Uncle Willy's, you best do two things: clean the hell out of the joint and replace it with one bad ass Chinese food buffet.

Sticking to the common set up of buffets in town, it's like the others but the food is great! They don't hold back, they have all the favorites, plus dishes you only see at higher end buffets. I have no problems with going to this place. A lot of familiar faces on the staff from other buffets in town; they've got this one dialed. Tea brought right to your table and a pay at the end of your meal, unlike most pay before buffets.

As always, try to be there early to beat the crowds, wash those hands, grab a plate and give one to your date and enjoy the new Crystal Jade. RIP Uncle Willy's, enter the new king of the buffet scene.

Until next time, forks or sticks, see ya in the mix, at the buffet.

Service 5
Cleanliness 5 (brand new)
Quality 4
Affordability 3

Ty says: As I wasn't as big of a fan of ol' Uncle Willy's as Glen was, I wasn't overly sad to see it go. When a new place opened up I was happy, but still bummed since this town already has Szechuan City. Do we really need another Chinese buffet?

I guess the answer is yes.

Right off the bat, the place is huge and

clean. You are shown to your table and don't pay until the end. The tea service was a welcome touch that you don't often see in a buffet. On to the food. While sporting all of the usual suspects in a Chinese buffet, the Jade adds a little extra. The big standout for me was the deep fried, battered prawns. Don't see those at the buffet much. Big and tasty, I could eat those the entire time! Great spring rolls and won ton soup are essential too. The green onion option for the soup is a nice addition. I really dig the chicken wings and pork dishes I tried too. The fried rice was okay, but a little too plain. All in all, it's a great feed. The prices aren't too bad either. It says kids are \$6 or something, but the super cool manager (owner?) always waives the charge for Sophia. It's a little bit more on the weekends, but it's a seafood feed with salt & pepper crab legs and such. I will (and already have) go back.

Service: 5
Cleanliness: 5
Quality: 4
Affordability: 3

Sophia says: I like the shrimp and rice. The fish tanks are good, but not as nice as the other place (Szechuan City). The noodles are good too. And soup (won ton). The best part is the ice cream with chocolate and sprinkles at the end.

Service: 5 (Dad gets all my food for me)
Cleanliness: ?
Quality: 5 (I like it)
Affordability: 5 (I'm three, I don't pay for anything)



by: pauly hardcore

I met Dustin early last year quite randomly. I was supposed to get a tattoo from Jeff [featured in this article] but he had left town doing a guest spot in Spain and a friend of mine told me to go see Dustin. We instantly hit it off and once I looked through his portfolio I knew his twisted humour and freakishly detailed cartoon style were right up my alley. I got the chance to pick his brain recently and heres the result.

AU- So what do you think of Victoria, man?

Dustin- It's been kind to me, that's for sure.

Great people, fair enough weather, year round fishing, lots of nice hot rods and crap to buy everywhere you look, perfect place for yours truly.

AU- Give us the lowdown on how you got into tattoos and tattooing.

D- I had one done basement style, along with my brother & I was hooked. I started browsing tattoo mags and starting on my resume of Flash. I guess it was a New Years resolution to start something new and I noticed a shop open on Jan 2nd, I rang the bell, hopped off the bus and BAM first shop I started in!

AU- Who are some of the artists you look up to and where do you draw your influences from?

D- My friend Jamer does some beautiful work here on the Island & Heather Mclean in Calgary has a style all of her own. My sense of humour tends to lean more towards a cartoon theme in most of my pieces. Sometimes I do a random search on google images and POW something just jumps out at you, or triggers something in my head and I go with it.

AU- What is the most important advice you can give your clients?



D- Make sure you are doing it for the right reasons, love the piece and dedicate yourself to the healing process.

AU- What else do you foresee on the horizon?

D- I'm haulin' ass right now, plan on getting into animation a little later on in life, working on a comic book that you can look out for early next year. I'm quite into painting and plan on expanding my collection when time allows it. I'm also a hotrod fanatic and currently working on a stellar 57 Mercury Truck as well as a 79 GMC pickup.

AU- Favorite music & movies?

D- I am all over the map when it comes to that stuff, I like a lot of rap/hip hop. Sage Francis, Jedi Mind Tricks, Outerspace & Looptroop to name a few. Movies I think Mel Brooks is a genius! so Blazing Saddles, Young Frankenstein... I also get into some Anime. Ninja Scroll, Akira,

Ghost in the Shell.

I'm a huge cartoon fan, Invader Zim fucking rocks.

AU- Tell us About the Crew at Urge and the NEW shop at 1026 Cook

st.

D- We have all the makings of a well rounded shop. Of course we all have so many variations of style it is hard to pin-point who specializes in what kind of art form. My Dojo of Ink consists of Mataio, Jeff, Kim, Emily & the man Behind the Curtain, our wizard of Oz, Sparky. I like to think we present a super comfortable vibe, custom work, amazing black/colour portraits first

class sterilization procedures and an overall top notch shop. We're located conveniently in the Cook st. village now, at the corner of Cook & Meares. It is an exciting time of change for us, after 10 years on Johnson, but with time comes change, and it isn't always necessarily a bad thing. We are all really excited about the move and hope you'll all come on down and check it out.

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Absolute Live Reviews

3Tards, System Shit, Mr. Plow, Lesbian Fist Magnet, The Fight United Cobalt Hotel, Friday, September 28, 2007 , Vancouver, BC

I'll tell ya, I've fought tougher men, but I really can't remember when. He kicked like a mule and he bit like a crocodile. We battled to a bloody standstill then stood there in the street wheezing and breathless. I heard John Tard laugh and then I heard him cuss, and he said, "Chris Walter, I want to thank you for making me the man I am today. Never has anyone put me in my place the way you have, and for that I am permanently indebted." Then we went back into the bar where the 3Tards put on a high-octane spectacle of rock'n' roll, complete with cop uniforms, homo jokes, and much spilling of beer. If John Tard was still hurting from our fight, he didn't let it show and was in fine form, swinging his ten-inch beard and flirting with all the boys, I mean girls. Fox Tard and Le Tard were also revved up and ready to go, thumping that bass and pluckin' that geetar respectively. The crowd were a vicious and horny lot, performing unimaginable acts of sex and violence on each other to the throbbing beast. I wanted to get in on the action but still hadn't fully recovered from the fight and had to settle for beating my meat on the sidelines. The new drummer seemed a bit taken aback by the fighting and fucking in the pit, but like a champ he didn't miss a note. After a long bloody show, the 3Tards showered the fans with more bodily fluids and departed the stage to join the orgy. The long awaited Vancouver 3Tards show was over.

System Shit provided us with noisy mix of crust and old school punk; D-Rock providing the crust and Otis singing the punk rock. I'd like to see them combine both elements in the same song. Now that would be fucking awesome. The drummer was a just a wee bit wasted and screwed up a couple times, but his background vocals were great so maybe they should keep him around. They could probably headline Warped next year if they combined all three vocal styles in the same song. SURE, LIKE THAT WOULD HAPPEN.

What can I say about Mr. Plow? We love Mr. Plow! Sure he fucked up the acoustic version of Cannibal Café and embarrassed the hell out of Chi Pig, but we forgive the big lug and know that he'll make it up to us. Maybe next time he'll bring in a cheesy keyboard for 'I Liked You Better on MSN'.

Lesbian Fist Magnet were pure punk goodness and I like big raunchy punk rock girls who know how to kick ass. Sadly, I missed The Fight United because of the fight. I'll get you next time, Tard!

-Chris Walter

An evening with DOWN, October 4, 2007, Commodore Ballroom – Vancouver, BC

Get the plastic cups out barkeep, its time for metal night at the Commodore again. When they're pulling drunken, barfing chicks out of the Commodore "before" the show even begins you know its going to be an interesting night.

Heavy metal supergroup "Down" paid tribute to all things black and sinister in a monster set last night before a very appreciative Vancouver crowd. Phil Anselmo, Pepper Keenan, Kirk Windstein, Rex Brown and Jimmy Bower, musicians from some of the most famous metal bands in history, (and if you don't know which famous bands those are stop reading this right now and have someone help shoot you), gathered together with a few hundred of their faithful admirers and fucking tore the place up. Showing classic and recent footage of a veritable who's who of metal on the wall before the gig was a very cool idea. It got the crowd going and was a metal history lesson all at the same time.

Without an opening act and playing for nearly 2 hours, Down delivered some seriously heavy goods. Each member of the band was in great form, especially Phil, belting out some of metals all time classics both new and old. The intensity of Vancouver's appreciation of good metal may have surprised the band somewhat judging by their reaction and repeated declarations of how fucking awesome Vancouver is. If you give a little love you get a little head pounding, bass thumping, guitar laden love in return. Nice how that works.

It doesn't matter if you are a Pantera fan, a Corrosion of Conformity fan, a Superjoint Ritual fan, a Crowbar fan or just a plain old black clad, long haired metal fan in general, if you didn't leave this gig satisfied you must have left early with the barfing chicks.

-Grimm Culhane

The Pogues,, Showbox SoDo, Seattle, Oct. 17, 2007

Holy shit, the Pogues. There are bands that you love but have to come to terms with the fact that you'll never get the chance to see live, and the Pogues were definitely one of those bands. But those old dudes went ahead and proved me wrong a few days after my birthday to a sold out show in Seattle. Shane MacGowan had a bottle and a constant stream of cigarettes in his hands for most of the show, and his banter was totally incomprehensible, but somehow he managed to stay perfectly articulate when he sang. The sound was really well done, and you could clearly hear each member of the 7 man band. They were all smiling and having fun up there and you could hear it. They played a way longer set that I was expecting out of a bunch of aging Irish alcoholics, and threw in two encores on top of that. As you could expect,

the room was filled with everything from grey hairs to Mohawks, dreadlocks and crew cuts with rugby jerseys. And everybody was shit faced. It was freakin' awesome. I want a tin whistle.

-Lindsay Kasting

SNFU, Aging Youth Gang, the Fight United, the Likely Rads, er, Lads Friday, Oct 19th, Cobalt Hotel, Vancouver, BC

SNFU at the Cobalt is indeed a remarkable sight to see. You walk in and the room is packed, Wendy Thirteen and staff working furiously behind the bar. The kids at the front of the stage scream lyrics into Chi Pig's mic as he crouches down to make it easier for them. Another hundred punks, soaking with cheap draft and sweat, crawl all over each other in the pit, screaming and dancing and generally going mental. Beyond them, another two hundred people crowd around to watch Chi and his hired guns level the bar with a sonic assault ferocious enough to make Lee Ving cringe. Sure, this latest incarnation of SNFU is only Chi with ex-Unwanted Ken "Goony" Fleming on guitar and two lads who probably hadn't been born when And No One Else Wanted To Play was released, but for the three hundred crazy fans in attendance, this might as well be 1982 and the band the original lineup. Not just that, but it's slightly surreal to watch punks sing along to songs that are older than they are, and the enduring popularity of SNFU is amazing. Chi Pig looks like Charles Manson now, and seems just as charismatic onstage. Rich people are in trouble should Chi decide to send his punk minions out to torture and kill. But on this night, Chi's forty-fifth birthday, he asked only that they pass him hand over hand to the bar so Wendy could give him a couple of birthday beers. Then the devoted fans passed the evil gnome back across the crowd and onto the stage to continue the show. Guitarist Ken Fleming is no Marc Belke, but he's no slouch either, and is always entertaining. The young guys on bass and drums are also hot shit and play as if this is well...1982. But let's not keep going back there; this is 2007 and it's great to see Mr. Chi Pig and his Merry Men get the respect they so richly deserve. Sadly, due to circumstances beyond my control, I missed the opening bands and didn't arrive until SNFU had already started. I even missed seeing Chi get two beer flats full of cupcakes in lieu of a birthday cake. Apparently, he passed the sugary treats out the hungry crowd who promptly devoured them. Jeezas, doesn't anyone feed those little bastards? Anyway, it was a fun night and I went home smelling as if I'd been dipped in gutterpunk sweat and Rickards Red on tap. Happy b-day, Mr. Pig, and I hope my books made a nice bonfire.

-Chris Walter

Ninjaspy w/Whitey, Batoche and The Hycoprits Saturday October 20, 2007, Pub 340 - Vancouver, BC

In the event my ears heal, I will certainly bestow my humble thoughts to the Canadian recording industry - in a simplified form so they will understand of course. Slow, dimwitted A&R people need to stop looking for a new marketing ploy and focus on finding good songwriters with true skills. Here are three. Young, hungry and bursting with talent, Vancouver's new, and only!), kings of "Throwthefuckdownskankfunkrock" have arrived.

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In a nutshell – Ninjaspy is the best of all worlds. Drawing influence from music only you and I have heard, this trio of brothers, (average age 22), banded together and delivered a diversified musical debut of such incredible intricacy its nothing short of perfection. Definitely something worth getting your mind around.

Pub 340 was the locale in question this night as the "Triad in Blood" (as they are also known), came out swinging. Pulling tracks from their debut album "Pi Nature", (produced by the legendary Garth Richardson of Rage Against the Machine and Red Hot Chili Peppers fame), the sound was extra tasty crispy and Ninjaspy was fucking bang on. Album versions were played in full frontal assault mode with little improvisation and rightfully so. Vocalist/guitarist Joel, drummer Adam and bassist Tim Parents' infectious hooks had their loyal fans singing along with fervent conviction. Even earlier the hype was evident as everyone in the club was discussing the band and ninja gear was the dress code.



A legion of followers has arisen for a band that few know exists. Well, perhaps not you... at least, not yet. Think a 3 piece Mr. Bungle with Patton's vocals taking a turn for the better, add some laser beams and dreads, turn it all up to eleven, stand the fuck back and enjoy.

As cliché as it may seem, Ninjaspy is "The Next Big Thing" coming out of Vancouver. You have no choice but to drop your weapons, throw down the skank and surrender to your inner souls cry for musical salvation. Pay attention Canadian recording industry, Ninjaspy is on the rise and the people's salvation is at hand. Ninjaspy.net

-E.S. Day & Grimm Culhane



ROB ZOMBIE, IN THIS MOMENT
MACEWAN HALL, OCT 23, CALGARY

"Hey yeah, I'm the one that you wanted!"; actually yes! Fuck, I'd been wanting to see Rob Zombie for at least half my life. Day of the concert I waited in the longest lineup you'd ever see at MacHall before finally getting in before anything started. I went into a nearly empty beer gardens (really, for that many people in line and then not waiting in line at all in the beer gardens, it was like an underage twilight zone) and waited for In This Moment to begin. When they did I finished my drink and decided to watch a few songs, see if they were worthy of opening for Zombie (and Ozzy on other dates) Emo verse, breakdown, emo verse, scream out a chorus! I went back into the gardens not needing any more evidence.



I squeezed up to the railing well before Zombie would come out. "ZOMBIE, ZOMBIE, ZOMBIE" the crowd started chanting. A large black cloak covered the entire set. No one would know the strobing blacklight horror of Zombie before the man came on. Suddenly all things went neon, the cloak was unravelled revealing a massive devil head with two other heads around it. at least ten huge screens placed all around the stage showed pictures of witches, devils and dancing girls. The first riffs of "American Witch" were chugged as John 5 came out wearing a half military, half skeleton costume. The devil head then split in two down the middle and Zombie himself sprinted out as if he were 16, fit as a fucking fiddle. Sherri Moon shook her too-nice for words ass in delectable leather costumes during arguably the most famous songs of Zombie's career in "Dragula" and "Thunderkiss 65" before the band bowed out for a few minutes until the terminus.

The hot crowd continued to shout "ZOMBIE, ZOMBIE" until they came out once more for the extended ending of the supreme "Demonoid Phenomenon", with the obscure "Dead Girl Superstar" and the last song of the night, which Rob announced as being "his favorite (I was hoping it was "Creature Of The Wheel") in "Lords Of Salem". Nothing could have made this concert better, besides taking out the opening act and letting Zombie play longer. I was baptised in the spit of John 5 and sweat of Zombie, if only Sherri dripped a little something my way..oh well, don't ever wash me!

- Ryan Dyer

OCTOBER 25 – MISFITS, BALZAC, DIRTY BIRD, FAMOUS MONSTERS
– PHOENIX CONCERT THEATER – TORONTO

When I arrived at the Phoenix Concert Theater in downtown Toronto, I must say that I was pretty excited. The lineup was interesting: Famous Monsters from Toronto (I don't know how to describe them!) Dirty Bird (Canada's Drunkest Hardcore Band) also from Toronto, Japan's Balzac (Which was sort of

like hard polished rock 'n' roll), and the Misfits in their present incarnation of Jerry Only on bass, Robo on Drums, and Dez Cadena (formerly of Black Flag) on guitar. Famous Monsters began at about 9pm and played a less than impressive set. I thought with 6 members they would have more to show the crowd. They did however sound pretty good. Thankfully Dirty Bird took the stage by 10 pm and the crowd went into a frenzy. A pit formed, people cheered, and it was obvious to me that Dirty Bird has a strong fan base in Toronto.

Next up was Balzac. Although the music was not bad, they had very little stage presence. After about an hour it started to wear on the crowd and seemed kind of boring. The Misfits aren't what they used to be, but I have to say their performance wasn't terrible either. It was pretty awesome to see Dez on stage playing a couple of old Black Flag songs, and Robo on drums after all these years. The only disappointment was to see Jerry Only's narcissism in person. Watching him finish the set by putting down his bass and descending upon the crowd with his arms raised triumphantly, ready to sign autographs, left me feeling ill. All and all, not a bad show... 4 beers out of 5. -Miss Guided

GOREGAMES, OCT 27 THE UNDERGROUND, CALGARY

I arrived early, before doors opened after a fresh anal raping from one of the good baptists in Calgary. my white choir boy robe dripped in bloody viscious juice which would keep me lubricated the whole night! Feeling atoned for many sins, I was excited to take part in the inaugural GoreGames brought to you by Miss Demeanor and SickFuck productions. I met with them and signed my wavor backstage, which said they wouldn't be liable if I slipped and impaled my ass any more than it was. Soon, drag queens, Spartans, cenobites, Reagan from the Exorcist and one very drunk Leatherface came tumbling into the Underground. Pointzeroeight got onstage and demanded people get rowdy to get free drink tickets. The only people then who wanted to get rowdy were the people who didn't have costumes on, so it looked like a bunch of muppets watching a human dog-fight. The master of ceremonies then took stage and the games would begin. A drinking contest. A couples game; and then the main event - Bloody T Shirt Contest! It was somewhat tough to get the large breasted members of the audience in a white t-shirt, but eventually we had a few up there completely drenched and dripping. Who won, who cares...this is what hell should look like.

That familiar John Carpenter score wailed through the speakers as a Myers costume took the stage and Wormbox jammed into a razor blade apple of a set. Finally those with costumes were drunk enough to get int the pit, so now it was like a muppet blender with alcohol juicing it all together. Soon after we left to get stoned out of our minds and pass out after a lengthy exercise in all things GORE. by RYAN "Holy water as Lube" Dyer



Halloween Show at the Cobalt.
BISON/ China Creeps/ East Side Death Squad/ OSK, October 31 2007

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse ride!!! This was a dark and smokey night. Mainly due to the fuckers in the back of the Cobalt with fireworks. The mighty Osk took the stage to start the night with grind and doom mixed together fer a good time. Eastside Death Squad was next with the singer dressed as a woman and the guitar player taking a thrown bottle to the face. It was an intense night filled with chaos and drop kicks to the head and fist fights. Ahh the Cobalt like I remember it. Some band I cant remember the name of played but it was not my cup O tea. So I went outside to watch bike punks get roman candles shot at them. The China Creeps were up next... skate punk with a Beyond Possession cover. Then the mighty BISON. Yeah they rule so fucking hard you ain't ready fer this shit. The new songs are as good as the old. You better warm up yer neck fer the headbanging experience. The Bison were black metal drag queens and

that shit was funny as hell. A swell all hallows eve.

-Bubba Licious

The Aggressive Tendencies Tour feat. The Locust, Despised Icon, The Discord of A Forgotten Sketch, Mon Nov 5 , The Underground, Calgary AB

When I got to the UG, Discord Of A Forgotten Sketch was in the middle of their set. The spastic orange shirted ADD grind was just what I expected a band on this tour to sound like. Like musical long division for non-metalheads who want something heavy but with it not comprising of the usual genre cliché's that come with a metal band. But being that the banality of this mathematical genre is inconsistent time signatures, blast beats that run out of gas too quickly and special ed vocals, one yearns for something more fluid and anchored.

Because it was an all ages show, I made my way upstairs, which was hip hop night and had maybe ten people in there, for a few drinks before Despised Icon.

Up next were Montreal deathcore sextuplet Despised Icon. Andrew from Ahnabith Gish pointed out that their drummer had an expensive wooden kit, which sounded absolutely crisp. Quizzically, a metal bar was placed in front of the stage to separate fans from band. This was actually a useful tool to lean on and provided leverage for people to get microphone hand offs and crowd surf the members of the band. They played a scorchingly intense set, maximizing their two vocal synergy and granulating the crowd with some of the most befitting breakdowns I've heard from a hardcore inspired unit. Looks like people are still using those karate class gift certificates they got a few Christmases ago. A very enthused metalhead who attempted to get a circle pit going was stupefied at this display and told one spinkicker that they're "Not fucking emo!". If it were only that easy.. Just figures that the shirt I wanted was only being sold in a child's extra small size. Gotta lose my beer gut!

Someone break out the bug repellent, here come The Locust. Spouting lucha-libre bug costumes and playing no-nonsense insanity jellied in an open sore of electroninsectica, The Locust is like Mimic come to life. They put off an withdrawn, misanthropic vibe, choosing never to communicate with the crowd once until the announcement of their last song. Like a hundred little moths to one little flame, the crowd at the underground was a claustrophobic art student with Stendhal syndrome. Completely in awe, nearly no movement happened, angering the enthused metal heads looking for a limb to pull to the insectoid blast swarm. Each member of the band has his own aggressive philosophy to make known in a series of lighter fluid breathed screams and perverse musicianship. Going to see The Locust is like choosing whether or not to go through the pod in Cronenberg's The Fly. You are aware



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LISTINGS FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

6 Dec 2007 · Dave McCaan and the Ten Toed Frogs

7 Dec 2007 · Peter Allan (Early Show 6:00 to 8:00 PM)

7 Dec 2007 · The Fallacy with Seven Deadly Grins, Decipher and Auditory Acid

8 Dec 2007 · Deadneck Fury with The Anti Social Club, and The Duped

13 Dec 2007 · Dave McCaan and the Ten Toed Frogs

14 Dec 2007 · El Chupacabra and Guests

15 Dec 2007 · The Press Gang with The Colin Decker Freefall, Stienhoister and Dr. Rockstar and the Gypsy Bears

20 Dec 2007 · Dave McCaan and the Ten Toed Frogs
LAST Thursday Night jam with Dave McCann

21 Dec 2007 · Ronnie Hayward and Guests

22 Dec 2007 · Caveat, Kadakus, Inner Surge, We Found The Body and Psychomantium

28 Dec 2007 · Second Hand with Smart Patrol and Guests

29 Dec 2007 · In The Attic with Bravado , Our The Garage and Smith on a Sunday

30 Dec 2007 · Iblamerobot with SHO·shuh and Guests

31 Dec 2007 · NEW YEAR'S EVE with The Press Gang , Conniving Cadavers , The Rigormorticians, Dog Faced Models, and 3 Good Men

4 Jan 2008 · As Romans Do and We Found The Body , Lotuss

5 Jan 2008 · Karma Curse with guests

6 Jan 2008 · The Butchers Hand with The Fall Of Sacred with Day One

11 Jan 2008 · TreeBurning with Eye int the Well , The Fallacy and Nussquam Esse

12 Jan 2008 · Mossleigh with Smart Patrol and Guests

18 Jan 2008 · Becoming The Martyr with Reborn Pariah and Guests

19 Jan 2008 · The Bloody Hells with Von Tom Cats , Anti Social Club and The Mad Cowboys

25 Jan 2008 · The Rigormorticians and Guests

26 Jan 2008 · Johnny Incognito with The Blind Assassins , Tartan Hearts and Rum Runner





of the benefits of taking such a chance, but unlike Jeff Goldblum, know the incident slowly change you. Hey kids, here's how you rock with Brundlefly..
By Ryan Dyer

Black Mountain, Bison, Bloody Wilma @ Sugar, Victoria November 9th 2007

This show was packed and every band was different. Bloody Wilma opened up with a bass and drum act, it was well received by the people. Before the mighty bison played a fella said to me, "look at all that hair(pointing to bison setting up), you know they are gonna be rocking!" That fucker was right! Bison fucking SLAYED! Brad hit his bass drum peddle so hard he snapped that fucker in half. Yer head sways back and forth to the music as it assaults and hypnotizes you. The new songs are polished and slick but still ooze raw energy. One of the best bands ever to come out of Vancouver!! A must see band. Black mountain wound down the night with the rock/folk. Some songs sounded like the Doctor Who intro while others sounded like good 60's music. I liked how the music went all over the map. Though I can say Willy yelling at Steve McBean " THIS SUCKS " was pretty fucking funny. A great show.

- bubba the fucking hut

**Gwar, Horse The Band & Caveat
Mac Hall, Calgary
Nov. 14th 2007,**

Gwar was in town yet again for the second time this year. That didn't stop the mass crowd of degenerates clad in white who were buying merch faster than the guys could pull it form the boxes. The show was actually supposed to have opening act The End, Mathcore dudes from Mississauga, Ont. However they had some Van trouble and so local metal titans Caveat stepped up to the plate and bashed a home run clear across the UofC campus. I've seen Caveat a million times over but there was something different this time... its not just that they were playing to a mass crowd in Nu-Mac and the crowds approval was obvious, but it was something from within... they fuckin gave it and worked it over and gave it again.

Cali's Horse The Band was fired up and ready to bring it next. Just when you think you have heard it all, here comes the Nintendocore... and I gotta say I was fuckin diggin it. Its not everyday you hear random gameboy noises mixed with guttural vocals. ALSO, not everyday you see neon pink and bright peacock blue shirts at a metal show. These guys have really high energy and just go crazy, it was enjoyable and worth a listen.

"Calgereeee, Cargerahhhhh" Oderus chants to a sold out show of rabid fans chomping at the piss soaked bit. Gwar was exactly what you would expect. Festering luidity and the usual piss, blood, cum, (and whatever the blue shit is supposed to be) flying through the air into your eyes and down your gullet. Lots of the usual choppy choppy of various characters such as Bam Margera and Don Vito, Bush and Hitler/Jesus. They played a good variety like War is all we know, Baby, Dick, Fuck, Go To Hell, and a plethora of others. Everyone loves it and rocks out slipping and sliding all the while. Again, the usual theatrical blow out that happens every time they come. Very enjoyable and dirty!

- Demonika



**SPREAD EAGLE, Mongoose, and The Keg Killers.
Steamers - Victoria Nov 17 2007**

When I was young in the mid eighties I would go to this place called the Kings Hotel and drink beer and watch women strip. Twenty years later I'm back at the Kings Hotel, now called Steamers nightclub. Local music promoter Heather of Clove and Anchor productions has formulated another evening of absolute power and energy... she puts on some of the greatest shows of the underground. Three Beers for Clove and Anchor productions!!! The place fills up and the first band is The Keg Killers from Victoria. There is about a hundred years of punk experience in this band and my favorite part of this band is no heavy metal riffs just pure impact. This is the kinda band that will probably never play on the Vans Warped Tour but if they did then I might actually check out the Vans Warped tour for a change! The microphone starts windmillin' in the air and the jack boot guitar riffs start strumming out the hits! By the time you have seen the Keg Killers a couple of times you can't help singin their catchy songs to your self the next day..."SCUMBAG" NAZI POPE""CHACHI BEACH""BLUE VELVET" and of coarse "SMOKES" all the punk hits man.

Next, Mongoose from East Van. A uniform group of young guys that had energy. Clean fast paced rock energy that attracted alot of girls to the dance floor. I am sure they would fit in on the Vans Warped tour just nicely. Now I

started this review with the women I used to watch strip in this Kings Hotel some twenty years ago. These women where big, unshaven, powerful and maybe had a few pimples and band-aids. They where real women and I'm sure it was probably one of the first times in my life I actually saw a woman in the SPREAD EAGLE position. Twenty years later I am in front of the stage watching a band from Vancouver called SPREAD EAGLE. This band has big sound, is unshaven, powerful, probably had a few pimples but didn't need any band-aids because when they where done only stitches would hold their wounds together. Vancouver has been a hub of heavy rock music lately with bands like Three Inches Of Blood, Bison, and Grass City and SPREAD EAGLE fit in. Goosebumps formed on my arms as this band played their fast paced stomping rock. The dance floor even became a little bit of a battleground for awhile as the jock type girls started dancing. Not to be missed.

-ricky JaK

**GWAR w/The End & HORSE the band
Friday, November 17, 2007
Commodore Ballroom, Vancouver Canada**

On the night of November 17th, in the Earth Year 2007, the pathetic human scum of the hovel known as "Vancouver" flocked to the Commodore Ballroom to witness Gwar, the undisputed masters of the planet, perform their mind-shredding metal and do away with their enemies (often simultaneously).

Both California's HORSE the band and Toronto's The End opened the night, but neither band, being the mortals that they are, could match Gwar's sheer intensity. It was difficult not to notice the guttural shrieking of "GWAARRRRRI" (And other things less printable) emanating from throughout the audience of human sycophants during HORSE the band's spastic 'Nintendocore'. The End impressed somewhat more, playing off the strength of their latest album, "Elementary", but even the sight of singer Aaron Wolff beating on a tom drum like a wild-man at the front of the stage doesn't quite compare to 5 hulking aliens blasting metal at cowering onlookers. It was obvious that more than half those present had come to see one thing only. And who can blame them?

When Gwar finally appeared "The Living Gods from Beyond the Galaxy" pulverized the venue with a sound that was both intense and brutal; making two relatively, heavy bands seem like pale shadows in comparison. And of course, they were. Those who may have complained that a band composed of eons-old warrior aliens is 'gimmicky' or a joke, would have had to admit that Gwar are equally as adept at hammering out energetic, thrashy metal as they are at slaughtering their rivals, which they did as well. Various foes, including George W. Bush, Osama bin Laden, and a large dinosaur, fell before the might of front-thing Oderus Urungus. After playing roughly an hour-long set, Gwar departed, leaving behind drunken sweaty metal heads, puddles of goo and bodily fluids, and a sense of foreboding that humanity's time has nearly come.

-Derek Leschasin

**PASSENGER ACTION / ASADO
Nov.22/07 @ The Royal Albert – Winnipeg, MB**

So, Pauly Hardcore told me to do myself a favor and check out local upstarts Asado at the Albert and thus I found myself driving down to the exchange district on one of the first truly frigid winterpeg nights of the year. I coasted through the front doors just as Asado hit the stage and immediately

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 & THE VOODOO DOLLZ

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questioned whether they were actually a local band or from Sweden, that's how much they reminded me of that particular countries' greatest punk rock exports, namely the '90s skate-punk variety a la Satanic Surfers or No Fun At All, only with a slightly updated modern rock edge similar to that of Rise Against. These guys seem focused on balancing their technical proficiency with well-crafted and undeniably catchy songwriting skills. Frontman RJ possesses a tremendously powerful voice, seemingly holding the mic 3 feet away from his face at times while still managing to fill every last inch of the room with his precise delivery. This was my first exposure to Asado, and I gotta admit that Pauly's got good taste. I stuck around for headliners Passenger Action, yet another group I was unfamiliar with. My attention was immediately drawn to the portly bass player standing center stage, "isn't that the dude from Choke?" Music starts. "Hey, I recognize that nasally, Geddy Lee-like singer, only last time I saw him he had a Jesus-beard". Yes, Passenger Action is the new project from Shawn Moncreiff and Clay Shea formerly of recently departed Shr-Edmonton vets Choke. Musically, the material is similar to that of Hot Water Music or the more recent output from Moneen, but unfortunately seems to lack the energy and desperation that either of those groups brings to their live performance. They did have some interesting, ambiance-filled interludes between songs, but for the most part I found their set a little too placid for my liking.

-Jimmy Vertigo

**Divine Heresy, Terror, Kataklysm, Chimaira
Nov 23, Macewan Hall Ballroom, Calgary AB**

As eager as I was to catch Dino Cazeres' Divine Heresy and Chimaira on their well earned headlining slot, I was anxious to finally see a full set from the Nordique hyperblast hosers of Kataklysm. While in the merch line for a Kataklysm hoodie (their live DVD was eight bucks cheaper than what I payed for it at HMV, fuck!), Divine Heresy crushed the chance for socialites to exchange stories and capitalized on their slot, converting new fans to the tried and true Dino sound. I'm not a fan of their lyrical approach - it is the weakest link of Divine Heresy, but their thousand word a minute typewriter percussion has potential, maybe not so to break out of the Fear Factory v.2 typecast, but its enough to tie over a fan of that style of industrial metal.

Terror were next and thus came the throwing down of the 10% baseball hatted/camo clothed portion of the crowd. The good thing about the upper Mac Hall is that going out for a joint is easy and convenient.

"Like Angels Weeping (The Dark)" tipped off the black domino effect which was Kataklysm's triumphant set. A warm welcome would be an unworthy description to the reaction of this band tonight. In an immediate act of worship to the nourishing dictation of metal, the crowd began banging their heads in perfect rhythm, like a series of parallel waves on a Hawaiian shore. They went through more recent material from their last three albums, which seems to be more crowd pleasing anyway, despite the few purists who demand their older style while knowing they can't without Sylvian on vocals.

Compared to Sounds Of The Underground, Chimaira's sound was about a hundred times better this time around. "Cleansation", and "Needle" were express way chugalongs and the viscous "Severed" brought back memories of Pantera playing "Slaughtered" here several years ago. A few extended instrumentals and "Resurrection" dedicated to the notorious Roadrunner Records and by this point with the energy exerted for Kataklysm I was too



somniferus to continue. Beat the train rush, and checking the set list the next day noticed I didn't really miss anything. Booyakasha.

By Ryan Coke

**Chimaira w/Kataklysm, Terror and Divine Heresy, Monday, Nov. 26, 2007,
Croatian Cultural Centre - Vancouver**

An evening of death-metal and hardcore in equal measures, with two bands pushing those extremes, and the other two filling the gaps in between. The powerhouse performance of Divine Heresy kicked things off in a big and impressive way. Coming across as seasoned pros, one would have guessed these guys have been together for ages, when in fact they are currently supporting their Century Media debut "Bleed The Fifth". Although this may not be such a surprise, considering their lineup features Dino Cazares (ex-Fear Factory) and former members of All That Remains and Nile. They were firing on all cylinders with an enormous and full sound blasting through the venue; an impressively tight and punchy rhythm section, machine gun riffs, and

vocals that seemed to channel Phil Anselmo's rage and the epic choruses of KSE's Howard Jones.

Next up was L.A.'s Terror. The self proclaimed, odd-man out of the line-up, Terror unleashed their straight up hardcore, in a very raw and energetic fashion. Montreal's Kataklysm followed, with their pummeling death-metal. Demanding the "violent" appreciation of their fans, the extreme was most definitely delivered by these veterans.

As the lights finally dimmed for the last time, an epic score poured over the crowd and set the stage for the night's headliners. Coming out of the gates with the lead-off track from their eponymous third album, "Nothing Remains" Chimaira announced their presence, and thrilled fans. A set filled mostly with newer material from their last two offerings, complete with seizure inducing strobes, prolonged progressive jams, and blistering solos, Chimaira brought forth a consistent and precise attack. They also seemed to be thoroughly enjoying the fact that they continue to be able to create the music they want, and have fans embrace it (not to mention the shapely young lady flashing them multiple times as though she were at a Motley arena show in the mid-80's).

In all a very satisfying evening, with standouts Divine Heresy giving a taste of what they are hopefully capable of, and Chimaira proving why they are still at the top of their class.

-Andrew Johnston

December 1, 2007 // Tartan Hearts, The Press Gang and Ground-Up // The Distillery

Friday night's finale to Rock for Tots really did a number on many of the usual characters in the scene. The following night yielded only the brave and only the strong show goers. The air was cold as ice and the hangovers were solid but none-the-less a good crowd found their way to the Distillery for another night of the Heavy.

The evening began with Ground-Up a veteran Calgary Beer Core band with a new addition, Mark from Dry Fisted on the 6 string for a change. Their over-all sound has a thickness that wasn't there before, and I believe it will take them to new heights. Good to see them, it's always a treat.

The Press Gang followed with their usual antics, great music full of personality. This band was formed from the ashes of many others including Hail Damage, The Broken Soldiers and The Inhalers. I had the pleasure of running their merch booth where they sold copies of their demo but unfortunately I didn't get to dance to "Eggy Sandwich" as a result. However, with the addition of 3 new songs to their fast growing setlist, the rest of the songs did not disappoint.

Last but not least the Tartan Hearts delivered an awesome performance. One thing that always miffs me is that NCHC had such a strong following which seems to have been lost in translation. The Hearts are so charismatic, people should be crashing the doors, how often do you get to hear the bagpipes live? If you miss NCHC, you should get acquainted with the Tartan Hearts...

As difficult as it was to get out of bed Saturday evening, I'm glad I did for those who didn't missed a sexy show.

- By Kristin Semchuk



Absolute Album Reviews

A Wilhelm Scream – Career Suicide Nitro Records

Returning to the Blasting Room for this release behooved them, and they churned out what is likely the best “punk” album of ‘07 if not the most original. Trailblazing their sound, it is apparent they have it honed in and finely tuned. I’m Finding it hard to pinpoint, as it lends from many facets of punk rock, hardcore & beyond. A vocal trio and overabundance of musicianship make for a very enjoyable listen. They set a breakneck pace for the album and carry it through start to finish.

-paully hardcore

Agnostic Front - Warriors Nuclear Blast Records

Ah, like a fresh breeze blowing across a corpse ridden heavy metal battlefield comes the new Agnostic Front album “Warriors.” Marching forth with weapons in hand and belting out some of their heaviest war cries to date, Agnostic Front continues to keep the hardcore/thrash fight alive and as vital as ever. Hardcore is and will always be socially driven music with a message and “Warriors” is no exception. Songs like “Addiction,” “Change Your Ways” and “We Want the Truth” prove positive that hardcore is as relevant today as it was twenty odd years ago. There’s something for everyone, this hardcore/thrash offering does cover familiar territory, but good familiar in the way of returning to the scene of a recent battle with arms raised in victory to plunder the mangled remains of the fallen oppressors.

- Grimm Culhane

American Steel - Destroy Their Future Fat Wreck

“American Steel” are back. If you are a fan of these guys then you will love this record. The record starts off very strong with “Sons Of Avarice” that makes me want to chant right along with them and slam a pint. The next track is much more 80’s dance-esque but not without an edge to it. There is a working class sound to this band but the album gives much more than just that, with new wave and oldschool R&B rhythms that are not for the immature music listener. That being said the music is still listener friendly and won’t be

hard for the straight up, punk rock fan to get into.

-Jym Wilson

Arise & Ruin – The Final Dawn Victory Records

These dudes from Guelph, Ontario know how to shred. Taking into consideration that this is their debut full length release it is quite impressive. Heavy fucking Metal a la Lamb of God, Pantera & Mastodon. Powerful vocals, punishing blast beats, non stop shredding & breakdowns are what can be found on this heaping helping of alcohol fueled madness. 10 tracks of ferocious Metal that leaves you with the feeling like they have had their way with your eardrums and there was nothing you could do about it. Violated.

-paully hardcore

As I Lay Dying - An Ocean Between Us Metal Blade Records

For all intense and purposes we’ll call it metal but I’m not trying to offend any real metal fans out there. The music is heavy and the guys have some pretty crazy licks. I don’t like the vocals as the angry, growlie guy thing gets very repetitive. The fact that these guys are christian, yes christian (un-capitalized for a reason) makes it impossible for me to truly like, appreciate or want to listen to this band. I realize that this is ridiculous, as I can’t understand much of what they are saying so it really shouldn’t matter but I don’t want to hear it regardless. The fact that I am not a fan of organized religion makes me not want to listen to people who are and sing about it to boot. Christian metal is like right-wing punk, they are both wrong and I don’t have time for either.

-Jym Wilson

BEAUMONTS - The Brainless Sessions

Some pretty damn decent punk rock and roll here. Most of the tracks are mid tempo numbers that have a slight pop aspect to them (think Angry Samoans) but with a lot of searing guitar and growling vocals. Speaking of vocals, the songs run the gamut. Booze, drugs, violence, murder... You know the deal. I could see these guys playing on a bill with The Demonics or someone like that. My only

complaint is that I’d like it to be a little faster.

-Ty Stranglehold

Cobra Skulls – Sitting Army Red Scare Records

Hailing from Reno, Nevada and playing a hybrid sound of punk/rockabilly type stuff, with a vocalist who sounds strangely like Tom Gabel of Against Me! I have to admit I was a huge fan when I first heard the album, then it grew off of me, but now that I have picked it up again I find it rather infectious. Incorporating a lot of different styles and sounds with loads of catchy tunes about everything from preachers having affairs with manwhores to TV mind control.

-paully hardcore

Crime In Stereo – Is Dead Bridge 9 Records

One of the more highly anticipated releases this year, it came off not at all how I had expected it. Their sound certainly changed from their ‘06 release Troubled Stateside. It is hard to narrow their sound down, it is melodic hardcore, with more emphasis on melody & harmony, than hardcore. Some may see this is a step backward from the path they had set, but some may see the natural progression of this type of music.

-paully hardcore

Darkthrone - F.O.A.D. Peaceville Records

Darkthrone took a step back and to the left for there 13th album. Its not “A Blaze in the Northern Sky” or even “Hate Them” Fuck Off And Die is a maddening array of crust, rock n roll, thrash, and even punk infused heavy metal... BUT there is aesthetics of black metal and has a vintage throwback retro sound. They took the burnt punk rock sound of “The Cult Is Alive” and dug deeper. A person wouldn’t think twice if you dug this out of a box of dusty cassettes from the garage.

“Canadian Metal” and “Raised on Rock” make you wanna crack a beer and swing your hair around, a rockin tribute to the music that fuels there fire. “Canadian Metal” was also on the “N.W.O.B.H.M.” EP but this version is different, mostly on the vocal front. A direct quote from “Raised on Rock”, “Because im metal and I dont give a

fuck...” Pretty suiting for this entire album. They can really go in any direction they want as they have been around a hundred years and dont give a fuck what you or I have to say on the matter. These iconic old goats have taken so much flak over the past few years but I am not about to hop on that band wagon. This album is rockin, and you should pick it up if you havent already.

- Demonika

Dethklok - The Dethalbum Williams Street

Virtual band based on adult swim’s cartoon Metalocalypse. The show is about Dethklok, “the most brutal band in the world”. Amazingly, this album was the highest charting death metal album EVER, it debuted at #21 on the Billboard 200 chart with 33,740 copies sold in its first week alone. That leads me ask, how the hell can a fake band be more proficient than most real life metal bands?

The sound comes almost entirely from the show co-creator Brendon Small. Small does the voices for 3 out of the 5 characters of Dethklok. On the album, he handles ALL the vocals, guitars and keyboards. drumming giant (in more ways than one) Gene Hoglan delivers his usual flawless performance to round out the “band”.

This album is funny. “Face Fisted” growls “I’m so fucking tough, I’m so fucking tough, That’s right!” but aside from the ridiculousness... There’s no question that Small is talented.

- Demonika

Dirty and the Derelicts - Satan’s Seed Times Like This

Thanks goes to Dirty for getting kicked out of Journalism school and relying on his band to give him his purpose in life. This new album is a liiiiiiittle bit more honky-tonk than their past albums, but clearly still mired in darkly comical hardcore-rock with anthemic chants, quick guitar noodling and topical subjects as evidenced in songs such as “Crazy Girl” and “Chain Smoking” and “I Got Drunk and Quit My Job.” Every Derelicts CD is worth the money, as is their solid gold live shows. The only thing prettier than Satan’s Seed, is the picture of the dog on the cover, which was apparently found framed at Value Village.

-Emily Kendy

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The Fallout- Dismantlement Insurgence Records

The Fallout are three guys from Ontario that write politically charge punk in the vein of Stiff Little Fingers, The Clash, and The Forgotten Rebels. I loved The Fallout’s last album, and I love this one even more. I feel with this album the band has sharpened their lyric writing ability. The music is still as great as ever, but the lyrics are more focused when it comes to the subject matter of some of the songs. Examples of this on the album are “The End of the War Years” and “A Shot Rings Out”. The first is about sending people overseas to fight in Afghanistan and the second is about shootings happening in their own town. I find The Fallout are doing exactly what their punk rock forefathers would have wanted them to do, bringing attention to important subjects, while playing catchy, hard hitting punk rock. Joe Strummer would be proud.

-Chuck

THE FLATLINERS - The Great Awake: Fat Wreck Chords

I think I was predisposed to hate this. I figured that it was going to be another lame, emo “disco punk” think that everyone seems to be putting out en masse. It’s true; I judged it by its simplistic black and orange cover with ghetto blasters and butterflies on it. Musically, it starts out with those soaring guitars and galloping drums that you would expect from a band on Fat. “Oh great, eMo-FX” I said to myself, but it didn’t turn out half bad. In the end I can say that The Flatliners take some elements from great bands like Riverboat Gamblers, Dillinger Four and blend it up with a little more screaming and metal tinges a la Death By Stereo. –Ty Stranglehold (Fat)

FORBIDDEN DIMENSION - A Cool Sound Outta Hell Saved By Vinyl

It’s been a long ten years since this band shambled into a studio to lay the evil down. I had pretty much given up all hope of seeing these old corpses re-animate for another go. I’m shocked, horrified and can’t wipe the smile off of my face to save my life! In case there are a couple of you out there who aren’t aware of the mighty Forbidden Dimension,

I’ll give you the briefest of summaries. They are the best horror rock band there is. PERIOD! So does this slab of blood red vinyl match up to the legendary output of yore? Do angry mobs chase monsters with torches? Of course it does! It has everything that is necessary for an FD record. Catchy riffs, primal beats, macabre lyrics and creepy TOMB artwork. It’s all here kids, so hunt it down and slap it on for your next ritualistic blood orgy.

– Ty Stranglehold

The Fucking Wrath - Season of Evil Good Fellow Records

Well with a name like this, they’d better deliver and yes for the most part they have. These three Californian’s all work in different record shops on the same street and honestly, the fact that these guys are music store geeks did not surprise me in the least. You can tell that they listen to a lot of different music and are fed up with one sound and one genre. Upon first listen they reminded me of “Zeke” and “Speedealer”. But the slow stoner rock breakdowns are also a huge part of “The Fucking Wrath’s” appeal. The first track “Ride the Lighter” is a solid slow metal intro, which moves nicely into some heavy insanity with the second song “To the Eels” which has a breakdown reminiscent of Clutch. All in all I’d say these guys aren’t fucking around and are on the right track.

-Jym Wilson

IRON CROSS - Two Piece and a Biscuit Teenage Heart

Here comes the first new recording by Iron Cross in twenty years. I think that they are pretty much the first band from the U.S. to do the whole “oi” thing. As far as old bands getting back together is concerned, I have much more admiration for those who actually get together to write some new tunes rather than just tour and rehash their glory days. That said, I think this is really bad.

Mid tempo “oi” songs are the order of the day. That’s all fine and good, I mean we’re not building fusion bombs here. The problem lies in singer Sab Grey’s delivery. So bland, so emotionless. I swear that Stephen Hawkins could get more emotion out of these

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tunes than ol’ Sab and his monotone. Throw in a piss poor cover of Cocksparrer and call it a comeback. No wait! There’s more. The second part of the record is by a new group called Sab Grey and the Royal Americans. Here’s where the gold lies on this disc. Seriously? Skinhead country music? The song “Skinhead Girl” is worth the price of admission alone! This disc went from bad to beautifully ridiculous!

-Ty Stranglehold

The Jolts - Jinx Haute Voltage Records

Remember when punk rock was like a stiff drink in the face and not the “near-beer” pop-punk concoction its now become? Today’s new generation of castrated rockers seems to have missed the point of punk rock’s existence entirely, operating under the assumption that looking like everyone else and whining incessantly negates the need for style or substance. Thank God for bands like Vancouver’s “The Jolts”. Armed with both style AND substance, (and names like Joey Blitzkrieg!, Dr. Dylan Danger!, Lector Kurrentz! and GT Flare!, gotta love that!), these blue jeans and leather clad, swaggering reprobates have single handedly returned my faith in punk rock as a continuing viable musical genre. From the opening beats of “Caffeine Heartbeat” to the last resonating note of “Jinx”, this five song EP and it’s fast, catchy, riff laden tracks, (no fucking whining here!), will kick your ass and steal your girlfriend all at the same time, the two things punk rock was born to do.

-Grimm Culhane

Likely Rads - One Foot In The Grave (One Hand On My Weiner)

The last time I saw Professor Nopants he flashed my non-punk friends in front of the Railway Club and then tried to get a ride home back to Maple Ridge. Just another day in the life of a Likely Rad. Their latest masterpiece of geniosity is another maniacal splash about in the local sewage plant. While the recording is cleaner and the sound tightening up with their developing maturity – and by maturity I mean turning a year older - that’s about it for cleanliness. The lyrics are still everything that’s awful about the world, from “Gunt” to “Hope I don’t Shit My Pants” and the already infamous little tune, “Died In Your Thighs Tonight.” Now I am going to have a shower.

-Emily Kendy

MadBall – Infiltrate the System Ferret Records

These late 80’s early 90’s NYHC kings are bringing that sound back, and this latest release is standing proof of that. In fine form for all 13 tracks, they have shown a well oiled machine will run as it is supposed to. Throw this on and circle pit, stomp around, head bang, throw some elbows and kicks, because thats what this album makes you want to do, fuck some shit up.

-pauly hardcore

Modern Life Is War – Midnight in America Equal Vision Records

Having amassed an army of devoted followers along with the requisite punknews. org haters after two highly

influential full-length albums, MLIW got the call up to the ‘big leagues’ (well, sorta) and made the switch from Deathwish, Inc. to Equal Vision records for their latest release, Midnight in America. The album is both lyrically and musically their most diverse collection of songs to date. The dual vocal assault and punishing rhythms of pit-ready anthem “Screaming At The Moon” recall the NYC hardcore bands of the 1980’s. In the end, it’s the storytelling-like narratives of frontman Jeff Eaton that truly set this group apart in the current hardcore scene.

-Jimmy Vertigo

Mustard Plug - In Black & White Hopeless Records

I may not listen to much or any ska anymore but this album took me back to the days of Buck-O-Nine, early Bosstones & yes Mustard Plug. The last time I listened to these guys was probably 1997’s “Evildoers Beware!”. A few songs had me singing at the top of my lungs on first listen but a few had me skipping the track. Bill Stevenson did an excellent job not over producing this record as so many ska albums seem to be. It was nice to hear Mustard Plug again, & I definitely recommend this to anyone who is a fan of the mid nineties punk-ska.

-Jym Wilson

Naglfar – Harvest Century Media

Naglfar’s latest evil offering is as misanthropic as the last. The hate fueled lyrics and music are extremely well executed as each musician in the band is operating at maximum efficiency. While the album has more intros and outros than the last offering ‘Pariah’, the band still smokes out insanely fast riffs as they get their evil message across. Songs that grab the listener immediately include ‘The Darkest Road’, ‘Feeding Moloch’, and ‘Plutonium Reveries’. These songs are all fast, evil, catchy, and extremely well written Black Metal threats that make your day or night just a little darker and more intense.

- Ryan “Platoon” Primrose

Opeth - The Roundhouse Tapes Peaceville Records

Pioneers of Scandinavian Death Metal, Opeth have worked hard over the past 15+ years to defy even that genre specification with their own brand of experimental metal. Incorporating influences from jazz, progressive rock, blues, and even folk, (and damn near everything in between), their first live album, “The Roundhouse Tapes”, proves exactly what this band can do, play live, play loud and lay waste to all mediocrity in their path. The first thing you will notice about “The Roundhouse Tapes” is how “studio” this two disc set sounds. Its not until the audience reacts part way through the first track that one realizes this is fucking live! Highlights include “When”, “Bleak” and the incredible “Night and the Silent Water” which will leave you with chills running up your spin.

-Grimm Culhane

NOFX - “They’ve Actually Gotten Worse Live” Fat Wreck

After listening to this band over half of my life, owning every album and seeing them live a plethora of times obviously I am gonna be stoked for another live record. The album is mostly their new stuff as the last live record took care of their early career, but they definitely throw out a few old gems and even play eight songs in six minutes. If you have seen them before you know that half the enjoyment is the music while the other half is the (un)witty but funny as fuck banter and this disc is chalked full of it. Of course there is a lot of political views and social commentary both in the music and in between songs, with the added bonus of lyric changes that made me laugh out loud (not lol, actually laugh).

-Jym Wilson

The Pissoffs - Episode II: Attack of The Drunk Punks Independent

Fresh off the presses this one is. This is the second full length release for Calgary’s punk rock trouble makers The Pissoffs. The guys have grown up a bit and seem to be doing quite well with this album. Its more together and on que than the last. This record is very high energy and hella-catchy. I found me feet tapping as fast as they could and turning it up louder and louder. The album has several catchy tunes “Laugh it All Away”, “I Don’t Care”, “To Fast To live”, and super fun party tune “Beer Drinkers Anthem” complete with rad ass bag pipes by Matt from Real McKenzies. The only song I dont really dig is “G dub ya”, its catchy enough, but I don’t like political music and I really don’t like hearing about GW. over and over, everyone knows he sucks balls, so no point in flogging a dead horse. However, I really enjoy the gruff gritty vocals balanced with the group back round chants. These guys love what they do, its obvious, they have a great time and and don’t intend on veering else where. This album makes me wanna party. Fuck Yeah!

- Ginger Gibson

Quo Vadis – Live in Montreal Review QuoVadis Metal

Canadian Tech Death veterans Quo Vadis incinerate the stage in this outstanding live album. This two disc album features songs going as far back as 1996’s ‘Forever...’ while covering everything else up to 2004’s ‘Defiant Imagination’. The music is flawlessly executed, extremely energetic, melodic at times, groovy at other times, and truly not to be missed. This album will not disappoint any Death Metal fan and will win over new ones.

-Ryan “Platoon” Primrose

Raygun Cowboys - Underground Boogie Riverdale Records

I’m sure this Punk-A-Billy band from Edmonton would be fun to see live while getting your drink on. I only dig this style of music when it is backed with a bit of grittiness and all out balls both of which this record does not have. The music is very typical; clean, stand-up bass rock-a-billy with fifties greaser riffs that only works when it comes with more originality. Unfortunately the vocals are often way off key and get pretty boring pretty quick.

-Jym Wilson



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Quiet Riot Lead Singer, Kevin DuBrow
October 29, 1955 – November 19, 2007

The first concert I ever saw was Quiet Riot, Kick Axe, and Whitesnake in 1984 at the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver. I was only nine years old but Quiet Riot was my favorite band at the time. I still cherish that tattered ticket stub from my first ever show.

Bang Your Head In Peace
-Ira Hunter

Christopher James Morin
August 23, 1977 - November 22, 2007

Chris loved life and his life was music, his band and brothers "The Dabblers" and skateboarding. Christopher was famous for his huge smile and dimples and was always ready for a new challenge.



Kirk Sheppard

What are some of your main influences when it comes to your artwork?

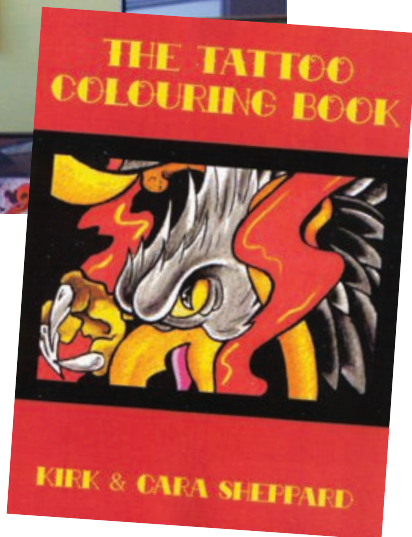
My main influences would be the people I am around the most, Cara Sheppard (www.bat-baby-design.com) and Derek Dufresne (www.derekdufresne.com). The two of them have had the most impact on my work since they are both artists as well and I see them both everyday. Its nice to have other artists around to throw idea off of and critique each others work. You can learn a lot that way.

Aside from that, I have enjoyed the work of Doorbell Designs a lot lately. The two of them have been helping me with ideas and loosening up my style a bit. Also tattoo history books tend to be a big influence on me. I read a lot.

How would you describe your art style?

My style? Well since I am a tattooer it borrows heavily from tattooing as far a design elements are concerned. I am a tattooist, so I draw like a tattooist, but I like to open up a bit more on my paintings than I can on a tattoo. Painting is for me, as opposed to tattoos that are for the client and what they are looking for, I just get to put my spin on it. With painting I paint in many styles, as long as I think it's going to make a good painting. One day I'll work on Bio-mech paintings, the next traditional tattoo style and the day after that cartoony or Japanese. I like to have fun and explore new things through painting.

Have you been able to support yourself with your art?



Yes, tattooing keeps me pretty busy working 6 days a week. I also sell limited edition prints of some of my work and I also have a book that does well (The Tattoo Colouring Book) and I am working on a new book coming out sometime in the next few years.

Tell us about your Tattoo Colouring Book.

The Tattoo Colouring Book itself is fifty-two unique line art tattoo designs. While inspired by traditional North American and Japanese tattoos, each drawing is interpreted with a modern sensibility. The designs are boldly outlined and ready for colouring or stenciling. It's a high quality, first-rate source book for tattooists, collectors, kids, artists, and anyone interested in tattoo art and culture.

As a tattooist is it hard to find time for your personal artwork?

Yes and no, both my personal work and my tattooing go hand in hand. I started painting to improve my tattooing a few years ago and now my tattooing improves my painting.

As for finding time their is always time. I work on painting in between appointments or before or after work.

You recently had an art show in Victoria, tell us about that.

Yes I did. Concyse skateboards/Incite screen printing put the show on for the month of November. They did a great job hosting the opening party and I would be pleased to work with them again. The opening party was nice I got to meet a lot of cool local artists and just some nice people that cared about art.

My whole thing with doing a show was I had a lot of paintings sitting around my house in portfolios doing nothing and I wanted to show them off.

Is your art available for sale anywhere?

Yes but I don't really advertise them but all my painting are for sale, if anyone is really interested in a painting off my website or that I have at the shop just come talk to me at the shop... Fleshworks Tattoos 2028 Douglas St Victoria BC or send me an email at kirk@kirksheppardtattoos.com

I sell Ltd Ed prints, tattoo flash and The Tattoo Colouring Book on my website as well as at Fleshworks Tattoos and in the New Year I going to have some more Ltd Ed prints coming out.

What else would you like us to know?

I love tattooing, painting, and my wife.

www.kirksheppardtattoos.com

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Gig Listings - Canada Wide!

Fri Dec 7

Mint Records Party! Carolyn Mark, The Buttless Chaps, The Awkward Stage, Vancougar @ Logan's Pub (Vic)
 Tribute to Tool!!! LOOT @ Lucky Bar (Vic)
 MALHAVOC, LSD, Jimi LaMort, Russ Foxx @ Steamers Pub (Vic)
 The Sessions, Vultures @ The Bourbon (Van)
 TARD, The Golvers, Last Plague @ The Cobalt (Van)
 A Textbook Tragedy, Rise In The Fall, Regnier, Break the Chains @ Pub 340 (Van)

Sat Dec 8

Mint Records Party Night 2! Young & Sexy, The Choir Practice, Bella, The Pack A.D. @ Logan's Pub (Vic)
 Jingle Belles Burlesque @ Lucky Bar (Vic)
 Crystal Pistol, The Flairs, Dreams of Treason @ The Bourbon (Van))
 The Rebel Spell, SoundCity Hooligans, The Vicious Cycles, Resist the Right @ The Cobalt (Van)

Tues Dec 11

Arbutus Trio, quick, said the bird, One Eleven Archer @ Lucky Bar (Vic)
 Tree Burning, Secret Broadcast @ Stetson (Calgary)

Wed Dec 12

Bedouin Soundclash, Saint Alvia Cartel, The Afterbeat @ Element (Vic)
 Bon Jovi @ Rexall Place (Edmonton)

Thurs Dec 13

Horde Of Anachron, Red Earth, S.I.C.K. @ Evolution (Vic)
 Shonen Knife @ Richard's On Richards (Van)
 Bon Jovi @ Pengrowth Saddledome (Calgary)

Fri Dec 14

The Switchblade Valentines, The Hits!, Growler @ Lucky Bar (Vic)
 The Death Rays, zip guns, The Hoovers, Numb Skull @ The Astoria (Van)
 Taboo Revue @ The Cobalt (Vans)
 Amon Amarth, Himsa, Sonic Syndicate @ Croatian Cultural Center (All Ages) (Van)
 Comeback Kid @ The Garrick Centre (Winnipeg)
 Kilyakai, Exit Strategy @ Beef & Brew (High River)
 Scorched Banditos, Diesel May @ Distillery (Calgary)

Sat Dec 15

Rock n' Roll Market featuring Red Hot Lovers, The Sweathogz, Start With The Cobra @ Logan's Pub (Vic)
 Rollerbabe Auction!!! @ Lucky Bar (Vic)
 The Big Bad, Rio Bent @ Pat's Pub (Van)
 Bison, Carpenter, Owl Drugs, Opera Strike @ Pub 340 (Van)

Mint Records Xmas Party!! Carolyn Mark, Vancougar, Hot Panda, @ Railway Club (Van)
 You Say Party We Say Die @ The Hi-Fi Club (Calgary)
 Kilyakai, Exit Strategy, CastinStone @ Stetson Inn (Calgary)
 Enemyus, Atomic Glock, Bravado @ Distillery (Calgary)
 Dimebag Tribute @ Rendevous (Edmonton)
 Sentient, Meggido @ Underground (Calgary)

Sun Dec 16

Wednesday Night Heroes @ New City (Edmonton)

Tues Dec 18

Red Elvises, The Pine Family @ Lucky Bar (Vic)

Fri Dec 21

Big John Bates and the Voodoo Dollz @ Lucky Bar (Vic)
 The Pogs, Sliingshot, Jones Bones, Vagrants On Parade, Blisterin Barnacles @ Balmoral (Van)
 3rd Annual Anti Christ Mass - Golgotha, Luciferian Conquest, Fetal Butchery @ The Cobalt (Van)
 The Spitfires, Red Hot Lovers, The Starboys @ Media Club (Vans)
 Re-Entry, Resurgence, Stab Rinse Repeat @ Pub 340 (Van)
 Pennywise @ Round-Up (Calgary)

Ricca Razor Sharp, Mantrakid, Impirical @ Distillery (Calgary)

Razorwing, Deadened, SOMD @ Underground (Calgary)

Sat Dec 22

The Banned, Claustrophobictapeworm, RottenFiends, DeathStalker @ Bayanihan Community Centre -1709
 Blanchard doors at 6 (All Ages) (Vic)
 Start With The Cobra @ Logan's Pub (Vic)
 The Dayglo Abortions, The Golvers, Blackie Leblanc and the Triumphs @ Cobalt (Van)
 The Big Bad, The Hoovers, The Likely Rads, Rock Pile, Gynosaurus X @ Pub 340 (Van)
 Onedarkone @ Verns (Calgary)
 Buddy Wiser & the DTs, Rigormorticians @ Distillery (Calgary)

Deadened, Celestis, Hellrazer @ Underground (Calgary)
 The Weakerthans @ Burton Cummings Theatre (Winnipeg)

Thurs Dec 27

Hardly Soft, Black Hat Villain @ Evolution (Vic)
 Ghosts Of Modern Man, Passenger Action (Edmonton)

Fri Dec 28

The Dreadnoughts, The Feminists, Dawntreader, The R.A.F. @ Railway Club (Van)
 Slither in Exile, Bloated Pig @ Distillery (Calgary)

Sat Dec 29

MSTRKRFT @ The Hi-Fi Club (Calgary)
 Lint, Snakemountain @ Castle (Calgary)

Mon Dec 31

Sugar Coated Killers, The Hard Luck Band, Rio Bent, Defektors, Motorama, Vapid @ Pub 340 (Van)
 New Year's Mash - Ninja Spy @ Royal Unicorn Cabaret (Van)
 Alexisionfire @ MacEwan Event Centre (Calgary)
 Press Gang, Rigormorticians, Conniving Cadavers, Dog Faced Models @ Verns (Calgary)
 Order Of Chaos, Necronaut @ Mead Hall (Edmonton)
 The Sadies New Year's Eve party @ Horseshoe (Toronto)

Fri Jan 4

The Manipulators, CC Voltage, The Saltcoats @ Royal Unicorn Cabaret (Van)

Sat Jan 5

The Manipulators, Start With The Cobra @ Logan's Pub (Vic)

Mon Jan 7

Graf Orlock, DANGERS, Ghostlimb, Hierophant, Breaking Point @ The Victoria Event Centre (Vic) (All Ages)

Tues Jan 8

DANGERS, Graf Orlock, Ghostlimb @ La Casa Del Artista (All Ages) (Van)

Fri Jan 11

Self Inflicted, Sonic Doom, Laying Waste @ Logan's Pub (Vic)
 Bogart! Martyr The Get Down @ Broken City (Calgary)

Nasquam Esse, Treeburning, The Fallacy, Eye In The Well @ Verns (Calgary)

Wed Jan 16

Ruiner, Broadway Calls, Jaws @ La Casa Del Artista (All Ages) (Van)

Thurs Jan 17

All Ages Hardcore!!! Ruiner, Broadway Calls, Final Verdict, Grave Maker, Breaking Point @ Tba (Vic)

Fri Jan 18

The Shivs, S.F.A. @ Logan's Pub (Vic)
 MEXICAN POWER AUTHORITY, Unicon, Hierophant @ Lucky Bar (Vic)
 Hedley, Pride Tiger @ Croatian Cultural Center (All Ages) (Van)
 Los Furios, Mass Undergoe, Pedwell, Dale Ladouceur @ Media Club (Van)
 Circle Jerks @ Richard's On Richards (Vans)
 Necro @ The Starlite Room (Edmonton)

Sat Jan 19

Send Us your Gig listings by Email
admin@absoluteunderground.ca

Bison, Crown the Wolf, Doorway @ Logan's Pub (Vic)
 Hedley, Pride Tiger @ Commodore Ballroom (Van)
 Necro@ The Underground (Calgary)

Wed Jan 23

Killing The Dream, Reign Supreme, Set Foot @ Casa Del Artista (All Ages) (Van)

Thurs Jan 24

Cavalacade of the Scars II - CD Release Party with Ton Of Bands @ Logan's Pub (Vic)

Sat Jan 26

Inner Surge, Persopolis @ Underground (Calgary)

Wed Jan 30

Three Days Grace @ Shaw Conference Centre (Edmonton)

Ill Scarlett, Protest The Hero, Silverstein, The Devil Wears Prada @ The Starlite Room (Edmonton)

Thurs Jan 31

Ill Scarlett, Protest The Hero, Silverstein, The Devil Wears Prada @ The Starlite Room (Edmonton)

BDFM, Turrettes @ Distillery (Calgary)

Fri Feb 1

Ill Scarlett, Protest The Hero, Silverstein, The Devil Wears Prada @ MacEwan Event Centre (Calgary)

Sat Feb 2

Caveat, Cast In Stone, Psycomantium, Day One @ Underground (Calgary)

Mon Feb 4

Silverstein w/Protest The Hero, Ill Scarlett, The Devil Wears Prada @ The Garrick Centre (Winnipeg)

Thurs Feb 7

Thrice @ Croatian Cultural Center (Van)

Sun Feb 10

Sonata Arctica @ Starlite (Edmonton)

Mon Feb 11

Sonata Arctica @ Warehouse (Calgary)

Sat Feb 16

3 Inches of Blood and Rammer @ Mod Club (Toronto) (All Ages)

Wed Feb 20

Exodus @ The Warehouse (Calgary)

Wed March 26

Hemlock, Meshuggah, Ministry @ The Whiskey (Calgary)

Fri March 28

Foo Fighters @ Rexall Place (Edmonton)



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ARIES

Frustration with work and a lack of development towards personal goals spurs a desire for change. You can make it happen. Big stuff is available if you get off your duff. Change your patterns and habits of daily living in order to loosen the bonds of the status quo. Emotions are heightened around Christmas, particularly with family or work authority figures. Try to stay out of arguments. Late January holds a personal breakthrough. Get some of your needs fulfilled by expressing them. A new cycle of career enhancement is beginning.



TAURUS

Try to enjoy this early December period, when you connect to new social networks and attract potential suitors. The opportunities come when you least expect them, when you are visiting friends or at the clinic; not when you are out trying to enjoy your self. Your energy is up around the holidays. Stifle tendencies to be snippy and sarcastic because someone near plans on being generous. A little positive PR pays off. The first half of January you can't avoid a change in goals and reassessment of your needs. Money is a tool that functions when moving. Around the Full Moon January 22nd, gain trumps loss.



GEMINI

December begins with more than your fair share of frustration with relationships. Looks like interference from family and career obligations. This is an opportune time to develop your work, career, income stuff. Make this your priority for the first 10 days of December. Money is flying out the window just prior to Christmas. That's Ok because your credit is good. A big make it or break it decision is looming about participation in a business or joint venture. Give it a try, and you can always opt out in the Spring, if it is not for you.



CANCER

The macho planet Mars is in your sign in December and again March into May. This signals a period of high energy and drive to get things accomplished. Hope you have stuff to do, because if you don't apply this energy constructively you may as readily use it to feed aggravations and get into trouble. December starts off with bitchiness at work. Around the holidays take a back seat. Things are beyond control and you don't want to be held responsible. Once we are into 2008 you can begin to put your life back together.



LEO

Give up on enjoying yourself the first part of December. Might as well focus on money, or the lack of it, work, and career stuff. That's where the crisis is looming. Hope you have endeared yourself to family and those who have vowed to support you. January is for refining the impression that you make at work. Use it as a foothold to turn some things around. January 22nd the Full Moon heralds a month of finding allies and being able to get organized.



VIRGO

Good thing you are playing it low key these days. Nobody expects you to take charge. Offer words of encouragement to those that are screwing up around you, not criticism. Abstain from social intrigues to alleviate boredom. Into January decisions are coming up about home life. A move may be in the offing. Be open to new people coming into your life. One may be an angel. You may even



enjoy having the opportunity to refine your effectiveness at work.

LIBRA

Push on career openings as they appear. Irritations crop up but the big picture is very supportive. Don't make promises because your situation is changing fast. Hope you have your Christmas shopping done because you are getting busy. Around the holidays something is popping in your career. Take care of your nest before you spread your wings. Into January you get to have some fun and be more creative. Don't forget to make your point.



SCORPIO

You are attracting favourable attention. Get others to buy. You are getting busy around the holidays. Others are looking to you for guidance and it seems hard to avoid responsibility. You are on a constructive role; pulling stings; making things happen. Into January you get to catch a glimpse of where all your efforts/play is getting you. Hopefully, this is not into deep trouble. You are challenged to speak your truth and act like you mean it.



SAGITTARIUS

There is so much of a focus on you and what you are doing, that you wanna hide. But hide somewhere else than home. How can "left field" be on home base? When the unexpected comes flying out of it. You have been going through some big changes for some time. If they have been inner ones, they are about to be drawn out. You start to change how this new you gets along in this world. In January, inject new ideas into your productivity without rocking the hierarchal boat. There will be plenty of time and ammunition for that.



CAPRICORN

You are undeniably opening up to new sensitivities and a current of inspiration. Which is not the time for pushing your trip. If you have conflicts with others, recognize own your own contribution to them and climb out of denial. As the holidays approach you are more sensitive to your impact on others and versa visa. Don't shy away from sticking up for yourself. January is more about reining in your assertiveness and refining your approach at work. Try doing what is expected for a short period. Catch them off guard later.



AQUARIUS

World's changing around you. How are you going to respond? Hang on to the well earned pride that you have scraped together by being reliable. Ditch the wounded warrior routine. Standards are continually changing and you get measured by your effort not style. The holidays push you into this personal research and development. This time it is serious. Ask yourself, "Did I get boring?" Into January, no one is going to notice your willingness to change unless you jump up and down and demonstrate it.



PISCES

Don't even ask, "What do they want of me?" As you redefine your public image you best be getting your inspiration from within. You're the one that is going to have to live with it. Into the holidays you want to play, but others are taking you too damn seriously. Oh, well, you can't please everybody. That is even more OK, because you are entering into a new social sphere. Follow the receptive audience. Ties may be cut and bridges burned. You are moving on.



David Zunker is an Astrologer, Tarot Card Reader, and occult guy in Victoria, who does readings and classes.

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Derrick discusses Endgame and the need to end industrial civilization at the David Lam Theatre, University of Victoria, Saturday Oct. 20 at 6 pm. Ticket prices to be announced.

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Circle Jerks w/ Dead To Me @ Richard's On Richards, Vancouver Thursday, January 17th (No Minors)

Gallows w/ This is Hell, Cancer Bats @ Croatian Cultural Centre, Vancouver, Sunday, January 27th (All-Ages) (Early Show)

Silverstein w/ Protest the

Hero, Ill Scarlett @ Croatian Cultural Centre, Vancouver Monday, January 28th (All-Ages)

Contest ends January 5th, 2008

Draw Date January 7 th, 2008 for all shows for more info on shows go to www.livenation.com

Lost Skateboard!

HEY VIC JAKS!

lose a skateboard sometime in the last few weeks?

It's safe and won't go anywhere till it can be returned upon proper identification. A friend found it somewhere downtown, abandoned and lonely, early in the morning.

E-mail bsxjen@gmail.com or gimme a call if you can track down my number.

Psychobilly Documentary Needs Your Help!!!

I'm making a documentary film about the Canadian psychobilly scene. Hopefully it'll appear at some film fests, theatres or even TV! To this end, we will be "touring" from the East to the West Coast. So contacts for the East Coast (Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, etc) and in between (Winnipeg, Alberta, etc) are needed. Not just bands but people who can perhaps give us a place

to stay and a little tour/info on the town. We can pay you in booze... and maybe a movie cameo if you want.

Just contact me at www.myspace.com/maryduh77 or myspace.com/canadianpsycho2008

Thank you very much!
 Cheers, Anita Fixx

New Punk Rock Calendar Available from Bev Davies!!!

The JEM Gallery proudly presents:
 2008 PUNK ROCK CALENDAR
 (1979-1984) photos by Bev Davies

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We want you to think, PUNK ROCK, loud black and white photos taken by Bev Davies from 1979 - 1984 of local Vancouver bands. D.O.A., Pointed Sticks, East Van Halen, Subhumans, The Bill

of Rights, Buddy Selfish, No Exit, Modernettes, The Dishrags, Death Sentence, Los Populares, Rude Norton, and the Young Canadians.

Calendars are available at the JEM gallery
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